

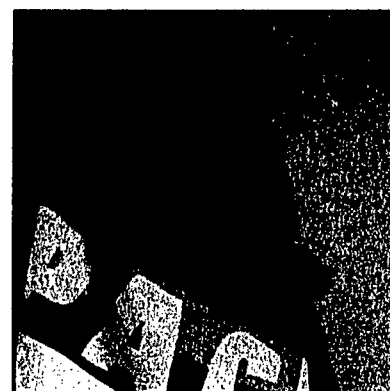
## ANNIVERSARY OF CONFLICT

One year after the war with Iraq, the conflict and its aftermath continue at home and abroad.

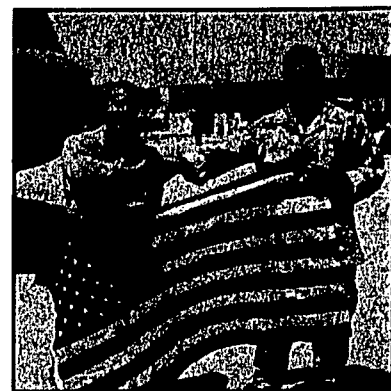
*The Missourian* takes a look at local impact since March 19, 2003.



Jan. 23, 2004—Ryan West says goodbye to his daughter before departing from Maryville with 49 other National Guard troops.



Sept. 13, 2003—Amnesty International member, Amy Carr, believes that the war has not been justified by the Bush Administration.



Summer 2003—Northwest students Alan Hargreaves and Fred Weixeldorfer meet up in Iraq. Hargreaves has since returned home.

# Questions remain in the midst of war



A U.S. Marine Lieutenant of the 1st Marine Division calls in mortar fire after locating the position of the Iraqi Army just outside of Diwaniya, Iraq two weeks after the start of the war.

By STEPHANIE SUCKOW  
MANAGING EDITOR

A 20-foot crater was left in the streets of Baghdad Wednesday morning after a 1,000 pound car bomb was detonated, killing at least 29 people and wounding as many as 50.

Although this event came as a shock, such conflict in Iraq is something 1996 Northwest graduate Gary Bradley and other soldiers have become accustomed to since America's war on Iraq began March 20.

Despite his efforts as part of the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion from Santa Barbara, Calif., to work with the City Council of Baghdad to help restore essential services such as electricity, water, sewer and transportation, he has been met with Iraqi conflict.

"No joke, the (newest Mayor of Baghdad) had armed thugs blocking the doors, had fired all the employees of the Office of the Mayor for 'working with Americans' and declared himself to be a 'true Iraqi' because of his refusal to deal with Americans," Bradley wrote via e-mail. "There we were with loaded weapons, them with loaded weapons and it felt like it could easily escalate into an international incident."

The situation was finally resolved after the soldiers convinced the Mayor that the American soldiers were not there to question his right as a mayor, but to provide the city with better utilities.

Despite the danger he's been met with, Bradley still believes it is necessary to remain in Iraq in order to better the nation.

"Iraq's infrastructure was in very bad shape due to nearly 30 years of neglect," Bradley said. "Repairing it to an acceptable standard would take at least five years, and that number is expanded due to security requirements brought on by attacks against coalition forces and civilian contractors. In the end, the decision to stay and finish the job or leave the Iraqis to themselves is a political one, and I wouldn't speculate how long the political will remain to accomplish this mission."

The politics of this issue have extended to Missouri's government. "I think we had to go to war," said Rep. Edward Wildberger, D-St. Joseph. "Even lacking WMD, ties to al-Qaeda, lacking all of those it was still time to get rid of Saddam Hussein and the reign of terror he had over those people."

Wildberger believes it was necessary for the United States to move

(Please see 'Questions' page A5)

## Lager will introduce merger bill in House

State Representative will hold various Town Hall meetings to gain input

By PETE GUTSCHENRITTER  
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Fourth District Rep. Brad Lager says he plans to introduce a merger bill into the House of Representatives in April.

And two weeks after State Sen. David Klindt, R-Bethany, introduced Senate Bill 1295 that would rename Northwest the "University of Missouri-Northwest," state legislators still have questions about the possible merger.

At the same time, Northwest students, faculty and staff continue to voice their opinions to Lager.

"We're changing higher educa-

tion in the state of Missouri," Lager said at the Support Staff Council meeting Friday. "If we do this, it will change higher education forever."

Lager said the community town hall meetings—including a Faculty Senate meeting—will help answer some of the main questions people have.

"Questions like, 'How does it impact local economy?' and 'How

does it become an economic engine?' need to be answered," Lager said.

Legislators to build on Senate hearing

Both Lager and Klindt were present for the Student Senate-sponsored Legislative Reception and merger hearing on the Senate floor March 9.

During the hearing, Senate President Pro Tem Peter Kinder, R-Cape Girardeau, expressed his concerns

(Please see 'State' page A5)

## Northwest makes way to Elite Eight

Bearcat men beat Drury on last-second shot, win Regional Championship

By BILL KNUST  
SENIOR REPORTER

Northwest fans can pack their bags and buy their suntan lotion because the men's basketball team is headed to Bakersfield, Calif.

For the second time in three years the men won the South Central Region with a 62-59 victory over Drury University.

Junior forward Jesse Shaw, who knocked down the game-winning three-pointer, and senior guard Kelvin Parker, who had 27 points and the game-winning assist, provided the heroics.

"That's what it's all about," Shaw said. "I've practiced that shot all spring, all summer, all fall and

all winter. It all paid off. Even though I've shot that probably 100,000 or a million times, just making that shot one time was worth it."

The 'Cats took an early 5-2 lead, but trailed until late in the second half for the rest of the game. That was mainly due to their 23 percent shooting in the first half.

But the 'Cats shot a little better than 50 percent in the second half and Parker came to the rescue with 12 straight points to help Northwest erase an 11-point deficit.

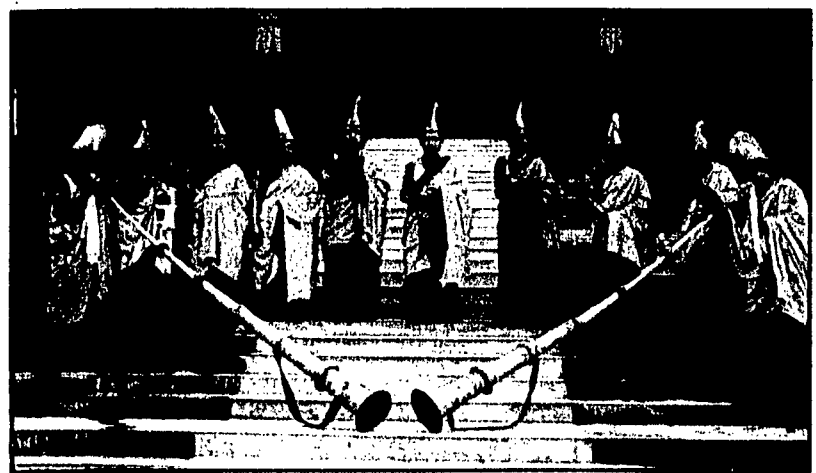
At one point in the second half Parker scored 12 straight points.

Fan buses are being arranged through the University for the trip to Bakersfield. The 'Cats take the court at 2 p.m. CST next Wednesday in Bakersfield. Check out Missouriianonline.com for more information about travel as it becomes available.

See Sports for more on the Bearcats' Victory



## Tibetan monks to spend week at Northwest



Monks from the Drepung Gomang Tour Group pose in front of their Temple. They will be presenting various cultural activities, including a performance of Tibetan music and dance.

Drepung Gomang Tour Group to participate in cultural activities March 29-April 2

By JANEA PHILIP  
UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR

A group of Tibetan monks will stop in Maryville to share the history of a culture threatened by communism.

"The purpose of the tour is to educate people about the art and culture of Tibet," said Matt Johnson, instructor of history, humanities and political science, who organized the visit.

The Drepung Gomang Monastery, stationed in Southern India, began sending monks on U.S. tours in 1999. They have since traveled throughout the nation spreading their message of Buddhist peace and harmony. The Tibetan monks have already visited Florida and California during this year's tour.

The monks of the Drepung Gomang Monastery will educate on the threatened culture of Tibet during the week of March 28-April 2.

"The reason they want to share that culture is because they feel that it is threatened by the present political situation today," Johnson said.

(Please see 'Drepung' page A5)

MISSOURIAN  
ONLINE.COM

### Web Extras:

Log on today to read about the newest development in the implementation of the Student Activities Fee. The per-trimester fee has decreased and a new vote will take place April 12-16.

### Last week's poll:

Who do you think will go furthest in the NCAA tournament?

- 51.2% Duke - they're always a good bet
- 19.5% Stanford
- 17.1% Missouri - Quin's hair will carry the Tigers
- 12.2% St. Joseph's

### Online poll:

How do you feel about the War in Iraq now that a year has gone by since we invaded?

- a. We're wasting money, time and lives.
- b. Freeing Iraq is a good cause.
- c. We've got Saddam, now let's get out of there!
- d. I can't think... I drank too much on St. Patty's Day!

# Disco 'Fever' infects crowd at Mary Linn

By LACEY BAGLEY  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Northwest grooved to far-out music, psychedelic clothes and funky dancing in Mary Linn Performing Arts Center Tuesday night.

The Encore Performance Series presented the Broadway musical "Saturday Night Fever" with enough color and sound to keep the audience buzzing for weeks.

Set in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1977, "Saturday Night Fever" is the story of talented and suave dancer Tony Manero, played by Tony Gonzalez. Manero breaks away from his friends with the hope to use his dancing to move up in the world of dancing instead of spending a life of blue-collar work. Manero is encouraged by his brother who recently left the priesthood.

"The only way you're gonna survive is doin' what you think is right," Frank Manero, Jr., played by Stephen Smith, told his brother.

Manero and his "refined" dance



PHOTO LAURA CADDY/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Tony and the Faces perform "Boogie Shoes" at the Encore Performance of "Saturday Night Fever" at Mary Linn Auditorium Tuesday night. The show was full of energy with impressive singing and dance from the 1970s.

partner, Stephanie Mangano, played by Kristin Piro, enter and win a local dance competition only to find out the competition was rigged in their favor.

Through group dances, gang

fight and a friend's suicide, Manero battles his conscience and his way of life.

"There's different ways of killin' yourself without killin' yourself, you know," Manero says at a pivotal point

in the musical.

The musical featured popular songs from the 1970s disco-era such as "Stayin' Alive," "Disco Duck" and "How Deep is Your Love." The overwhelming music was accompanied by a thrusting and grinding cast in eye-catching but revealing costumes.

Maryville resident Lila Herauf particularly liked the scene of the dance competition, in which Manero and Mangano are clearly out-danced by the Puerto Rican team.

"I thought it was great because I like music from that era," Herauf said. "I liked the Puerto Rican dancers."

Danielle Rhoades, a Northwest sophomore and broadcasting major, also liked the competition scene.

"It was interesting having three different people having three different kinds of dances," Rhoades said. "If it comes back again, I would definitely see it."

## Spicing it up



PHOTO BY NIKI CORDER/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Maria Rodriguez dances the Salsa as part of a Spanish heritage program at the annual dinner sponsored by the International Student Organization. "A Night Out With the World" featured programs preformed by students to educate the audience about their native culture.

## University Events

Thurs.	18	■ Brad Lager Merger Forum, 7 p.m., Union Ballroom
Fri.	19	■ Lots of giveaways, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Information Center, 1st floor union
Sat.	20	■ First day of Spring
Sun.	21	■ Sunday Night Church, Union Ballroom, 9 p.m.
Mon.	22	■ Spring Break
Tues.	23	■ Spring Break
Wed.	24	■ Spring Break

## Student groups discuss breaking barriers

By BURNE'A COTHRINE  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

For the first time last Thursday, Northwest students decided to express and discuss their organizational and cultural differences with one another.

"We wanted to further bond the Greek and non-Greek organizations," said Maurice Oatis, president of the Minority Men Organization. "We wanted to eliminate any biases between them and expose the fact that we are all basically one."

The theme of the event was titled "Dotting the I's" to signify the importance of covering all the various cultures within the University. Several members of different cultural organizations, fraternities, and sororities united for a number

of activities to educate and learn about one another.

Among the organizations were Minority Men Organization, International Student Organization, and the Interfraternity Council to name a few.

"The goal of this event was to bring together the community and minority organizations on campus," said Hispanic American and Latin Organization member Rebecca McLaughlin. "We are trying to unite and meet people to break down barriers of each organization."

Breaking barriers and ending stereotypes seemed to be the common theme amongst the students throughout the event. Members of MMO taught cultural dances such as the "Bus Stop" and Monica Marcolina of HALO taught salsa

dancing.

"It's a chance to get involved," McLaughlin said. "We need to stop sticking to the normal and get out and do something different."

According to McLaughlin, the opportunity to be involved in such a groundbreaking activity opens up a lot of doors to further healthy University relationships.

"You really realize that you can start from the basics of getting to know one another," she said. "If you go with an open mind and forget all the biases, it is a really positive thing."

Although no official plans have been made, the students involved wish to have another social event to continue breaking down barriers of cultural diversity.

Burne'a Cothrine can be reached at 562-1224 or bcothrine@missourianonline.com



PHOTO BY JANEA PHILIP/UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR  
Northwest students held a discussion on overcoming cultural differences in the student body last Thursday. The event was entitled "Dotting The I's" to signify the importance of covering all the different cultures within the University.

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## Race heats up for April school board elections

By STEPHANIE STANGL  
CHIEF REPORTER

Amid bond issues, state basketball tournaments and one of the most exciting school years in history, five candidates will vie for two seats on the Maryville R-II Board of Education.

Residents residing within the school district will vote for their top two choices on April 6.

Current school board President David Boyles enjoys being on the board and hopes to be re-elected.

"Instead of sitting back and wondering why something is done a certain way, I get to be part of the process," Boyles said. "I have enjoyed being able to help shape and guide children."

Incumbent Mark Jelavich believes his experience and understanding of issues will pay off come election time.

Shelly Robertson hopes to help make the schools more conducive to learning if elected.

"I would have the opportunity to share some ideas and thoughts on how to help student achievement," Robertson said.

Ed Seipel filed and believes his blue-collar background would add variety to the board.

"I could represent a different aspect of the district," Seipel said. "It seems like the school board is currently represented from the higher end of the social scale and I would represent the middle class."

Candidate David Oehler said the skills he uses in his current job would benefit the school.

"As the Director of Assessment, Information and Analysis at Northwest, I am working with student outcomes, accountability and data analysis," Oehler said. "In the next five years these are going to be important issues when working with schools."

Seipel, Jelavich and Oehler believe that the deficit in Maryville school funding is the issue that needs to be addressed first. Robertson would like to concentrate on student progress, while Boyles believes there is another imminent issue.

"We need to continue to address safety," Boyles said. "It should be a high priority that we work to provide a safe environment for students to learn in."

According to Jelavich, members are held responsible for setting school policies and ensuring that funds are spent in the best interest of the students.

Oehler knows that the school board plays a crucial role in the community.

"In our country, our schools are entrusted to our public boards to take care of our students," Oehler said. "It's important to do as good of a job as we can."

Stephanie Stangl can be reached at 562-1224 or sstangl@missourianonline.com

## Downtown revitalization to begin this summer

Revitalization Task Force works with Texas-based company to enhance Maryville aesthetically, economically

By JARED HOFFMANN  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

The Maryville Revitalization Task Force has made strides toward giving the community a well-deserved makeover.

Since January, task force members have proposed changes that will enhance the visual appeal of the town. Ironing out finances and theme selection are among the issues that need settling before the revitalization process can be implemented.

The Texas-based company, Buxton, has been called upon to analyze how consumer dollars are spent within the community using their marketing product CommunityID. According to task force member Mayor Ron Moss, this process will help decide what new businesses have the greatest potential for success.

"CommunityID will help us

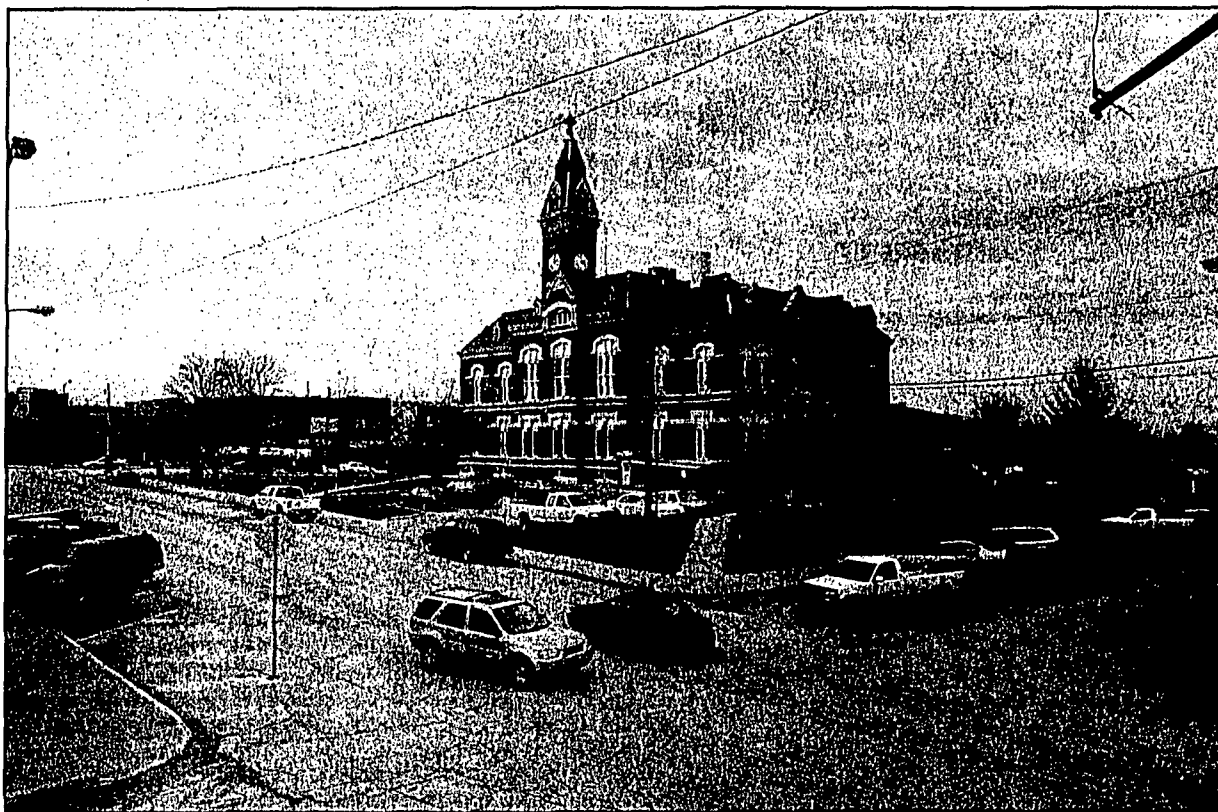


PHOTO BY NIKI CORDER/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Maryville Revitalization Task Force plans to begin beautification projects by Aug. 1, depending on weather and other factors. The group hopes to have downtown Maryville revitalized by as early as November.

bring in businesses that might revitalize the economic sector of the community," Moss said. "We will be able to bring different types of retail, which will make it more interesting for people who live out of town to come here."

According to Aleta Hubbard, another task force member, the initial stages of the revitalization

will be focused on the downtown area.

"Whatever we do we will start at the courthouse," Hubbard said. "Eventually we are going to ex-

pand from there, and we'd like it all to be themed together."

According to Hubbard, funding for the entire process will come from many areas including state, federal, county and private funding.

"It will be a combination of many sources," Hubbard said. "Our intention is to keep going while some of the money kicks in right away. The rest we will have to wait for, but we know we're going to get the money."

Hubbard also said that a major reason for the upgrading the city's look is to prepare for Northwest's Centennial celebration in fall 2005.

"We want to look better when our families, friends and alums come back to Maryville," Hubbard said. "Maryville is a great place. We have a lot of really good things going on but if you just drive past the downtown, you don't know it, so we want to change that picture."

Hubbard said that the task force hopes to begin the revitalizations by Aug. 1 and depending on weather and other factors, would like to have downtown Maryville completely beautified as early as November.

Jared Hoffmann can be reached at 562-1224 or jhoffmann@missourianonline.com

## Smallpox vaccine offered to Missouri's first responders

By JARED LITTLEJOHN  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Missouri is preparing first responders for future bioterrorism concerns.

First responders are people such as the police, fire department and all emergency medical teams, and are considered Missouri's front line if any biochemical weapons were to be unleashed on the United States.

There are currently 48,000 first responders in Missouri and the smallpox

vaccine is offered to only those who volunteer for it.

In order for a person to receive the vaccine, they first have to attend a class learning all about the vaccine's positive and negative effects. Secondly, they must fill out an in-depth questionnaire concerning their career and health. Finally, if the local health department finds them suited for the vaccination, they may receive it.

"It's a drawn-out process, but that's intentional," said Brian Quinn, Public Information Officer for the Missouri De-

partment of Health and Senior Services. "We want to make sure it's needed."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web site, smallpox was eradicated in 1980. However, since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the U.S. government is taking few chances.

"It's an aid to those and their jobs out there on the front line," said Aaron Winslow, Missouri Emergency Response coordinator. "We need them out there and at the same time they get a peace of mind."

The state will not spend a dime on the

treatment, since \$1.67 million has been federally allocated for the project.

"We're not encouraging or discouraging anyone to apply for this, we are just offering it," Quinn said.

There is no set number of first responders that state officials will vaccinate. Instead, the goal is to educate people on smallpox and the decision is left up to the individual.

"I took the vaccine because it's not a matter of if smallpox will strike, but more of a matter of when," Pickard said.

### Dinnertime dissent



PHOTO BY NICK ROUMAS/MISSOURIAN PHOTOGRAPHER  
Posing as a low-class citizen, Northwest History, Humanities and Political Science instructor Matt Johnson is restrained by David Farmer, who posed as a guard during the Oxfam Hunger Banquet at St. Gregory's Church last Friday. People attending the banquet were separated into demographics depicting the world's distribution of wealth. Tired of sitting on the floor, eating rice with no utensils, Johnson tried to start a protest before finally being carried away by the guards.

## City Treasurer reports increase in last year's sales tax revenue

By JESSICA SWARTZ  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

Last week, City Treasurer Denise Town passed along some good news concerning sales tax revenue to the Maryville City Council.

Out of curiosity, Town figured out the totals from the four-month period of December of 2002 to March of 2003 as compared to the same four months the preceding year. Town found that the sales tax revenue has increased by six percent.

"I think we're seeing a recovery from a recession," said Maryville Assistant City Manager Matt Unrein. "It was an economic slump."

Town agreed with that statement.

"Last year, we saw a decrease and this is probably making up for it," Town said. "We usually only see a three to four percent increase."

According to Unrein, an influx of new businesses could also be a factor in the increase of revenue. Two furniture stores have also debuted in the Maryville business scene.

"I'm sure that (the new businesses) have been a great help," said Unrein. "When people can buy product in town rather than going out of town, that helps Maryville with paving roads and police protection and all of those important things that we tend to forget."

But Town is cautious of inflated optimism.

"We're happy to see the increase, because of last year's drop," said Town. "But I don't want people to think that (the tax revenue) will continue rising. I believe this good four-month period is only a result of last year's decrease."

### Community events

Thurs. 18 ■ **Focus on Kids Program for Divorcing Parents**, 1 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room

■ **FAPRI Meeting**, 1 p.m., Nodaway County Community Building

Fri. 19 ■ **Men's Prayer Breakfast**, 7 a.m., Maryville Hy-Vee

Sat. 20 ■ **Opal Eckert Walk**, 8 a.m., NWMSU Recreation Center

Sun. 21 ■ **Camp Quality Benefit Breakfast**, 8-11 a.m., St. Gregory's Church

Mon. 22 ■ **Sam Graves' Mobile Office Tour**, 10:30 a.m., Nodaway County Courthouse

Tues. 23 ■ **Community Meeting concerning the needs of people with disabilities**, 6:30-8 p.m., Association of Group Homes/Nodaway County Services Offices, 122 E. Lieber

Wed. 24 ■ **Caregiving: A Loving Challenge Workshop**, 2-3 p.m., Savannah Branch of the Rolling Hills Consolidated Library

If you would like to have your event published, please call 562-1224 or e-mail aballey@missourianonline.com

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## Our View Why war?

*Recent tragedy in Spain proves the war in Iraq to be misguided aggression by the Bush Administration*

After last week's train bombing marked the worst terrorist attack in Spain's history, the subsequent, surprise election of socialist president Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero makes one wonder if the atrocity not only changed the course of an election, but if the horrific events may have been avoided.

With the developing evidence linking al-Qaeda to the attacks, the ramifications of this act could prove detrimental to America's War on Terrorism and escalate the continuing doubts about the necessity of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Could this have been avoided if the United States instead concentrated its military operations on efforts combating terrorism?

This all underlies the fact that our government made a massive mistake in overthrowing Saddam Hussein instead of focusing on America's true enemy—terrorism.

When President Bush made his case for war, two major reasons were presented. One, that Iraq had links to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, and two, that the country had weapons of mass destruction. Neither of which have been proven, and yet U.S. soldiers continue to die for what appears to be a personal vendetta against Hussein.

While few would argue that the removal of a genocidal madman is a bad thing, Americans shouldn't be misled in order to justify a war. In addition, the same war is draining American resources such as manpower, money and military equipment, which should be used for the War on Terrorism.

With the administration's plans to hand over control of the country to the Iraqis by June 30, as well as a so-called "probe" into why intelligence failed in the hunt for WMD, it's obvious Bush is trying to wash his hands of this bloody mistake before the November general election. If the United States withdraws without an international peacekeeping force in place, the country will almost assuredly plunge into civil war and chaos, that is, if it's not there already.

The president needs to stop alienating America from the rest of the world. With a foreign policy that has been nothing short of reckless and an utter disaster, Bush continues to separate America from other nations instead of trying to bring the world together to fight terrorism.

We need to work to build a united world front against terrorism and internationally strive to build peace. The possibility that a terrorist act may have altered the outcome of an election is a clear sign the current War on Terrorism needs to be escalated. But because Bush's misguided efforts to "make the world safer," our international community, as well as Americans, must question the true nature of our President's priorities.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Apathy plagues students, but who cares?

Last Tuesday students and staff traveled to Jefferson City to lobby for higher education and the proposed merger of Northwest with the University of Missouri.

According to the *Missourian* article, "State senators express doubt regarding UM system merger," which ran last week, not one student addressed the Senators.

Why you might ask? One word...apathy. Apathy is defined as "the lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference."

Here at Northwest, apathy runs through our University like a beer tap at The Pub on a Friday night. If it's not the newest TV reality show, the best house party or drink special or the latest entertainment gossip, many students simply don't care. They're content with a life of daily ignorance as long as they

have their Internet access, more than 30 cable channels and enough money on their Bearcat cards to order Domino's.

The merger has a variety of pros and cons, including more doctoral programs and state funding, a pay increase for President Hubbard and of course the name change to the University of Missouri-Northwest.

All of this information and more can be found through Northwest's homepage at <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/UMINFO/INDEX.HTM>. This merger will affect students, but how and to what extent, is up to each individual student to discover.

While information about the merger is available, the University could benefit from a campus-wide campaign to educate students. Create flyers, posters and literature that tells students why this merger is a posi-

tive pursuit. Deliver this information in a language that actually speaks to students. Some of the documentation on the Web site mentioned above reads like an IRS tax form. By offering simple, straightforward, non-sugar-coated facts, students might be more apt to stand behind a merger.

Now some students will continue to be apathetic to the entire issue. It's a by-product of a University with 6,000-plus students. For those that don't care or don't think this merger will affect them, go back to your PlayStations, your countless episodes of *ElimiDate* and your repeat weekends of unconscious partying. None of this really matters anyway.

**DANNY BURNS**  
INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MEDIA

### Merger gains aren't worth sacrificing history

A little over two weeks ago, I began making a documentary for a class I had. The documentary was about the Administration Building fire of 1979. It started out as a documentary and I never knew it would grow into so much more.

I don't know a lot about the proposed merger with the University of Missouri system. Call it laziness or call it denial, I just don't want to accept the fact that the university that was first on my list of choices back in high school may be gone soon.

I don't know a lot about the University of Missouri, mainly because I don't go to school there. I go to school at Northwest Missouri State University and I know plenty about this school. I know that Northwest has pride, tradition and history. I know that students go here because they know that when they re-

ceive their degrees and it says Northwest Missouri State University, it's something to be proud of. What I don't know is why the voices that make this university what it is, those of the students, are being lost in the bickering among higher powers for deeper pockets and more zeroes on paychecks. Most of the students I have talked to do not want this merger to take place. A common saying I hear on campus is that of "If I wanted a degree from the University of Missouri, I would have gone there."

I completely agree. I go to Northwest Missouri State University because of its pride, tradition and history. And frankly, I think it would be a mistake to start that history over. It's a mistake to find new tradition and to have to force myself to remember to say, "I graduated from North-

west Missouri State University, but it's not called that anymore."

I don't know what possessed me to write this little quip. Maybe it was when I was taking footage of the Administration Building for my documentary. Maybe it was when I almost started to cry when Warren Stucki told me in an interview that when he saw the building burn in 1979, he broke down and cried. A lot can be said through tears, and these tears were because of a building.

It could have been a lot of things, but mainly it is because a lot of students feel like I do, but are too afraid to say anything. I wanted to let them, or maybe whoever reads this, to know that they are not alone, and that our voices are not yet muted.

**LINDSY ROBINSON**  
BROADCASTING

### Republican ideals drive resident to vote Democratic

You know, the values of the Republican Party are looking better to me everyday. The values of the Republican Party are that we need to be more concerned about cutting taxes, than we do about taking care of everyday folks.

After all, I'm not a senior citizen. So what if some senior citizens don't have enough money for both food and medicine? They just have to decide what's more important. That's not my problem, I'm not a senior citizen.

And I'm not a poor person. So what if some poor people can't afford a home to live in, and health insurance for their families. They just need to suck it up, get better paying jobs and stop relying on entitlement programs. That's not my problem, I'm not a poor person.

And you know, my kids are almost out of public schools. Why should I have to pay for some other kids' education, in some other part of Missouri? These other schools should just "learn" to get along with whatever

money they're given. That's not my problem, my kids are almost out of public schools.

Hey, wait a minute. But, I really do care about everyday folks, just like the Democrats. Maybe I really do believe in what 16th century English Protestant martyr John Bradford, said: "There, but by the grace of God, go I."

You know, on second thought, I will definitely vote for Democrats this year.

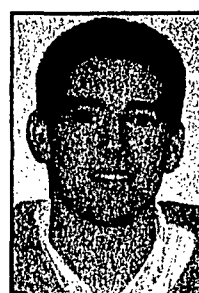
**DAVID A. RAFFEL**  
MARYVILLE

## YOUR VIEW One year later, what are your thoughts on the war in Iraq?



"(President Bush) needs to focus more on the financial market and our economy. He's making our dollar weaker and weaker."

**Maurice Oatis**  
International Business



"I back whatever President Bush does and says on the aspect of war."

**Brandon Pease**  
Undecided



"I don't agree with it because it is costing us so much money, especially when our economy is so low. But we should stop terrorism."

**Jill Jackson**  
Horticulture



"What we've done is right, but the timing was wrong. We should be worrying about Korea and not Iraq."

**Keith Duffey**  
Criminal Justice



"I still support what President Bush is doing in Iraq, but I still feel the Iraqi people are prolonging what could have been done a long time ago."

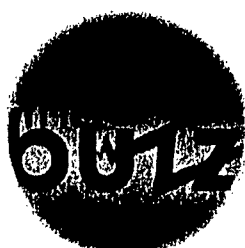
**Tyne Chaney**  
Child and Family Studies



"It's great that we're finding terrorists and stopping them. But I don't think our methods are effective enough."

**Harry Hamblin**  
Music Education

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Letters are limited to 250 words due to space constraints. All letters must be signed; students should include their major. *The Missourian* reserves the right to edit all letters.



CONTINUED from 1A

## Questions remain in the midst of war with Iraq

in as humanitarian's force but that the work should no longer be continued. He said that the Iraqi people should now be left alone to govern themselves.

"The longer we are there, the more I become anti-war," Wildberger said. "I know it's important to support our troops but it's not them sending themselves over there, it's our government."

Despite these anti-war sentiments, many soldiers have kept morale up regarding the war.

According to Jamie Melchert, Public Affairs Officer for the Missouri National Guard, he has wit-

nessed anything but anti-war attitudes from soldiers coming from and going to Iraq.

"I've seen many ceremonies seeing off and welcoming back troops," Melchert said. "Those coming back are glad to be back home but those who are leaving are still very much wanting to do their part and contribute."

According to Melchert, 3,400 Missouri Army National Guard members and 350 from the Missouri Air National Guard have been deployed to Iraq. In the Maryville area alone, 350 members are involved. Seventy of these sol-

diers were deported after a ceremony Saturday, March 13.

"Northwest Missouri is very much a part of what's going in Iraq," Melchert said.

As the war in Iraq continues, Bradley realizes he won't be coming back to the U.S. for another 10-12 months, in order to continue his work rebuilding Iraq.

"Rebuilding the nation not only serves to improve the lives of the Iraqi people, but it enhances the perception of Americans, which in-turn helps to make our fellow soldiers on the ground more safe."

CONTINUED from 1A

## State Representative will hold meetings to gain input

about support coming from the Chamber of Commerce or the City Council. Kinder also questioned the absence of Northwest President Dean Hubbard, who was on a 13-day tour of Rome with Northwest alumni.

"I think he'd want to come down and make his case," Kinder said during last week's hearing.

One of the questions Klindt heard about the merger from other senators involved tuition costs.

"The answers to (possible tuition increases) was more or less, 'As long as the state is in bad budget, tuition costs (at) all colleges and universities are going to rise to some degree,'" Klindt told KZLX News. "I don't think the UM system has any plans to raise the tuition level at Northwest above a level that would put it into an uncompetitive situation for the number of students here."

Student Senate to sponsor Lager forum

A tuition increase is one of the issues that will presumably be discussed at Thursday's Student Senate forum

featuring Lager. Student Senate also passed a resolution that will give students an opportunity to voice their opinions on the merger the week of March 29. Resolution 6 allows Senate to launch a vote on WebSTAR to get more feedback from students.

"We voted (Tuesday) to pass Resolution 6 to cast a vote to see if students are for or against the merger, so we can get that feedback and pass it on," Student Senate President Emily Dix said. "We want to see why they're for it or why they're against it, and get more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer."

Tuition has continued to be at the forefront of merger topics, as well as for universities and colleges across the state.

"We've trimmed our budget and we've still had to raise tuition by an average of 8 percent over the last ten years," Courter said. "That's higher than the rate of inflation, but the declining support from state government is a significant factor in that Northwest has worked diligently to trim its administrative expenses and be very frugal with the courses in the course catalog to keep our budget as effective as we can be."

Town hall meetings fill Lager's schedule

While the topic of higher education increases continues to be debated in Jefferson City, Lager is planning on getting more feedback from the community. Town hall meetings are planned with the Chamber of Commerce at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. March 24 at the Chamber. A town hall forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Nodaway County Court House on Thursday.

Lager said the community and the students need to keep an open mind during the merger talks.

"They need to understand this process is far from over," he said. "Don't prejudge (the merger) because it's important to look at the strategic outlook."

Overall, Lager said a hearing like the one seen on the Senate floor is a scene he would like to see more often.

"(Getting feedback) is what we're able to do now and that's what we hope to do in the house," Lager said.



PHOTO BY NIKI CARDEN/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Firefighters battle the remainder of the third consecutive fire at 510 S. Main St. Saturday night. While the first blaze was attributed to an electrical malfunction, police arrested and charged Scott E. Vergith with second-degree arson in connection with the second and third fires.

## Arrest made in Main Street fires

By SEAN COMER  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

After three fires in one week at a home located at 510 S. Main St., Scott E. Vergith of Maryville remains in the Nodaway County Jail after being charged with Arson.

Maryville Public Safety arrested Vergith, a 22-year-old who recently completed four years of service as a Marine, on two counts of second-degree arson with other charges possibly pending, according to a press release from Public Safety Director Keith Wood.

An electrical malfunction in

the basement caused the first of the three fires Saturday March 6. The house was occupied during the first fire, but no one was injured.

Investigator Greg Carrell determined that the second fire, set on Thursday March 11 on the second floor, was incendiary, meaning the fire was set intentionally.

The third fire occurred exactly one week after the first and was called in to Maryville Public Safety at around 8:39 p.m.

As firefighters worked to put out the fire, police arrived at Vergith's home and took him into custody.

"The third fire was considered

suspicious immediately upon the call," Wood said in the release. "Evidence at the scene further indicated that this fire had also been intentionally set."

If Vergith does not post bond, a judge will arraign him on March 23.

If a jury convicts Vergith, he may face up to seven years in prison and a possible \$5,000 fine, according to Nodaway County Prosecutor David Baird.

Maryville Public Safety and the State of Missouri Fire Marshals' Office continue to investigate and as yet have released no further information regarding the case.

CONTINUED from 1A

## Drepung Gomang Tour Group to participate in cultural activities March 29-April 2

According to Mary Pattison, national coordinator of the 2003-2004 tour, the monks have three main purposes for touring the United States. The three purposes are to spread a message of wisdom and compassion, inform about the political situation of Tibet and help feed the members of the monastery.

"They are sharing the Tibetan culture with recognition that it is under assault," Johnson said.

To demonstrate compassion, Tibetan Buddhism utilizes various art forms to express the idea. One of the most well-known expressions is the creation of the Sand Mandala.

"This is an excellent opportunity to expose our community to the Tibetan culture through music and dance," Provost Taylor Barnes said. "The creation

of the Sand Mandala, which is their representation of the world in harmony, presents an opportunity to participate in a cultural experience rarely seen firsthand."

The Sand Mandala is a sacred multicolored sand art form that takes the monks days to create. They perform chants and various mantras while creating the three-dimensional structure. The five-day process will begin March 29 in the Mel Carnahan reading room in the Union. On the final day, the monks will disperse the mandala into a body of water to signify that everything beautiful comes to an end.

The Sand Mandala is not just a piece of art, it is also a religious experience Pattison said.

The second purpose of the tour is to inform people about the political

situation in Tibet.

"The Chinese are doing to the Tibetans what America did to the Native Americans," Pattison said.

In 1959 the Chinese Communists destroyed more than 6,000 monasteries and also banished their political and spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. After being forced to leave his country, the Dalai Lama sought refuge in India and rebuilt the Drepung Gomang Monastery with other Tibetan refugees. People remaining in Tibet suffer cruel and unusual punishment as a result of their beliefs.

"They are trying to get support from the world to solve the problem in Tibet in a peaceful manner," Pattison said.

The third purpose of the Tibetan tour is to help feed the members of the monastery in India.

With more and more people escaping from Tibet, the monastery's population has increased. Although the monastery is stationed in India, the Tibetan refugees are not entitled to India's resources. The monastery produces most of their own food and uses money received from their tours and other donations to help with their financial situation.

"Any money the tour group makes is sent back to the monastery, not only to feed monks, but also refugees," Johnson said.

The University is supporting the monastery by sponsoring their visit with a Culture of Quality Grant.

"Exposure to more cultures is inherently a good thing for the University," Johnson said. "It will be an awesome experience."

### St. Pat's bash

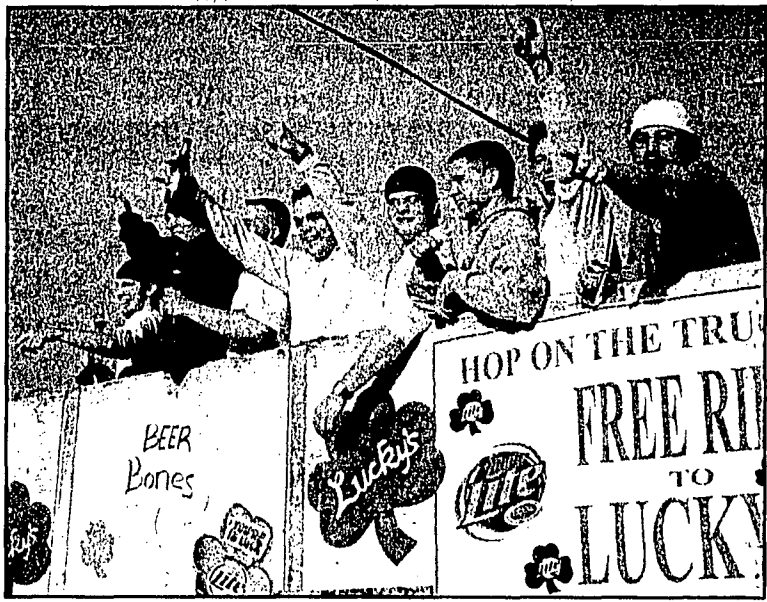


PHOTO BY LAURA CADY/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Passengers amid the Lucky's Bar truck interact with the crowd at the "World's Shortest Parade" yesterday. The St. Patrick's Day parade started at 5:17 p.m. and ran along Buchanan Street.

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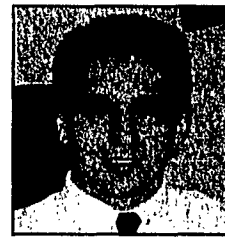
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OPAL C. ECKERT WALK

## A WALK TO REMEMBER

By BETS LEE  
FEATURES EDITOR

With smiles plastered on their motionless faces, they sat in a row, blankly staring ahead.

Unlike the students that would follow, Opal Eckert's first class drew little from her speeches on reading and writing. Though they failed to pick up their ABCs, the apt audience of dolls spurred a lifelong passion for teaching.

Eckert's young attempts at teaching led to a 52-year career in Missouri schools. Eckert received her two-year teaching certificate while pursuing her high school diploma. She began in a one-room schoolhouse, teaching first through eighth grade.

After five years she moved to Pickering, Mo., and eventually ended up in Maryville in 1944. As an English instructor at Maryville High School, Eckert began introducing students to journalism.

"She was great at keeping students interested," said Marilyn Powell, Eckert's niece. "She had all these little things she would do to make things fun."

Nina Schneider, whose husband taught with Eckert, said Eckert would assign her high school students stories about football games, trying to pique their interest in journalism. As a result, her classes were often full.

"She had people who weren't even interested in journalism taking her classes," said Helen Gorsuch, friend and fellow Maryville High School instructor. "Now, I never go to a class reunion where the kids don't ask about Opal."

Under her direction, kids at the high school produced a supplement to the Maryville Daily Forum called *Hi-Lights*. Once a year, the journalism students wrote, designed and produced an edition of the Forum.

Eckert began teaching journalism and English at Northwest at 37 years of high school instruction. Kay Wilson, one of Eckert's students, remembers her fondly.

"She's just a tremendous teacher," Wilson said. "She's the teacher of all teachers."

Wilson had Eckert for most of her beginning journalism classes, including her first class on campus. Wilson said Eckert had a relaxed teaching style, often lecturing in the middle of the room.

While Eckert was known for her knowledge, she was also known as a rough instructor, often requiring she students to re-edit their stories many times.

"She expected as close to perfection as her students could produce," Wilson said. "You never knew when you were going to be done with a

story for Mrs. Eckert's class."

Carol Fry, who taught at Northwest with Eckert, remembers her intense loyalty to the University. Fry recalled an instance where Eckert refused to print pictures of a car that had been driven into Golden Pond.

"The photographer came into my office just outraged," Fry said. "She was just really loyal to the University."

Eckert retired from teaching in 1974 after her husband Tom died. According to Fry, she felt somewhat guilty about not being there for him. Gorsuch said Eckert believed she couldn't have accomplished all that she did without Tom.

According to Gorsuch, many of Eckert's characteristics, like loyalty and compassion for the young, come from her parents.

Eckert's father Price was the custodian at Gorsuch's elementary school. Gorsuch said his duties went far beyond cleaning the halls.

"He was the unofficial school counselor," Gorsuch said. "If anyone had a problem, they came to him."

Eckert's mother, Jenny, was active in the community, something Eckert emulated. Eckert held high offices in the Soroptimist Club, the American Association of University Women, Teachers of English and Journalism and other community organizations. She compiled and edited a book entitled "Tales of Nodaway County" and worked to establish a heritage room at the Maryville Public Library. The documents in the heritage room were eventually moved to the Nodaway County Historical Society.

In addition, Eckert found time to write a column for the Maryville Daily Forum entitled "Grassroot Reflections."

The column, which began running in 1976, focused on people who have roots in Nodaway County.

"People loved it," said Wilson, who served as editor of the Forum. "They looked forward to it."

Sharon Bonnett, general manager of KXCV, said Eckert's skills as a reporter were evident upon meeting her.

"She always seemed to have an innate interest in what people thought," Bonnett said. "I think that's a sign of an excellent reporter."

All of Eckert's activities resulted in a host of awards and honors. In 1964 Eckert was awarded the United States Journalism Teacher of the Year Award by the Wall Street Journal. She was named a Pioneer Educator by Missouri School Administrators in 1979. The Maryville Chamber of Commerce honored Eckert with their Distinguished Service Award that same year. Northwest and the state of Missouri also honored her with service awards. Eckert received one of her biggest honors in 1981 when she was invited to attend the first-ever White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C.

Always giving back to the community, Eckert has established several scholarships at Northwest. These scholarships continue to benefit students today. Eckert currently resides in Savannah, Mo., at Shady Lawn Nursing Home. She will turn 99 March 19.

"She was influential in the schools, church, community, all down the line," Gorsuch said. "There will never be another Opal Eckert."

Moments in Opal Eckert's life are captured by Marcia Hankins, who shadowed Eckert for a photography workshop. **TOP:** Eckert struggles to load up groceries for a luncheon. Eckert remained active in the community until she was in her early 90s. **LEFT:** Eckert talks with someone in her home during Hankins' visit. Hankins chose to shadow Eckert for her photography workshop because she had heard about Eckert's activism within the community. **RIGHT:** Hankins presents Eckert with a plaque commemorating her 1997 induction into the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association Hall of Fame. Eckert was presented the award in St. Louis, Mo.

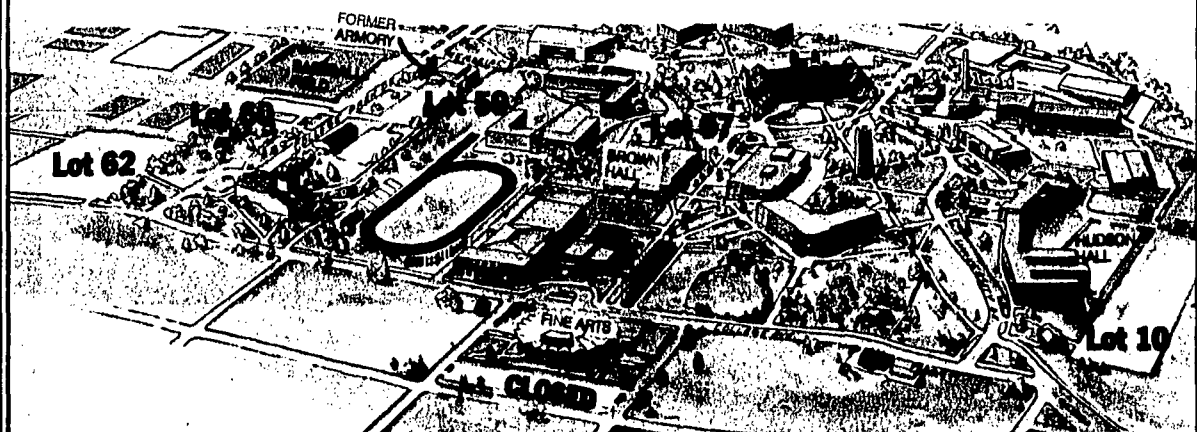
## Fine Arts Building parking lot will close Monday, March 22

The parking lot south of the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building (Lot 1) at Northwest will be closed for construction of the Fire Arts Building beginning Monday, March 22, for approximately 18 months.

**Commuting students** who typically use this lot are advised to park in the lot south of the former armory building (Lot 59) or the lot south of the baseball field (Lot 60). **Beginning May 1, commuter spaces will also be available behind Hudson Hall.**

The **faculty/staff** parking lots to the west (Lot 2) and east (Lot 3) of the Fine Arts Building will remain open. Additional faculty/staff parking is available north of Brown Hall (Lot 57) as well as south of the former armory building (Lot 59) and the lot south of the baseball field (Lot 60). **Beginning May 1, faculty/staff spaces will also be available behind Hudson Hall.**

**Northwest visitors** are encouraged to park in the lot west of the Performing Arts Center (Lot 62) and are also welcome to obtain a permit that allows them to park in any available space on campus. Visitor permits may be picked up from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the Student Services Center on the first floor of the Administration Building, or at the Campus Safety Office.



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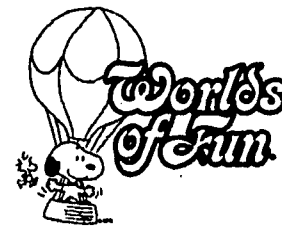
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## 'Hounds earn trip to Final Four, face Mountain Grove

By ANTHONY STIENS  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER

As the final seconds ticked away, Maryville head coach Mike Kuwitzky displayed his approval by looking behind the Maryville bench at the student section and giving them the thumbs up sign.

Most Maryville fans would agree with Kuwitzky's gesture after the Spoofhounds 41-28 quarterfinal victory over the Hogan Prep Rams Saturday at the Central Missouri State Multipurpose Building. The victory sends the 24-6 'Hounds to the Class 3 Final Four in Columbia for the first time since 1995.

Maryville was able to earn their

invitation to state using the style of game that has been their trademark throughout the postseason. Utilizing a slow tempo with stifling defense and clock management, the 'Hounds were able to frustrate the Rams into taking many difficult shots.

"Great defense and patience on offense has really become the character of our team," Kuwitzky said.

The 'Hounds started off on the right foot with a layup by senior Jacob Hefflin to give Maryville the early 2-0 lead. The rest of the quarter belonged to junior Josh Wilmes as Wilmes would score the next six points of the quarter for the 'Hounds to give them an 8-5 lead.

The second quarter found the 'Hounds and Rams in a close battle with both teams trying to get momentum heading into halftime. They appeared to get just that when senior Nate Morley nailed a three-pointer with 20 seconds left to give them a 16-9 lead.

However, Hogan Prep senior Marion Farley was able to cut the lead to 16-12 by banking in a three-pointed as time expired going into the half.

Coming out of the half, the 20-7 Rams were able to take an 18-16 lead by scoring six straight points. That lead was short-lived as Wilmes and Morley went to work combining for the 'Hounds next 10 points

to give them a 26-21 lead.

The third quarter was the turning point in the game. Hogan Prep was on a run, they came from behind and they had the momentum. When we pulled back ahead was the critical moment of the game—it gives us the confidence to continue," Kuwitzky said.

With eight minutes separating them from the Final Four, the 'Hounds used good ball control and stingy defense to increase the lead to 33-24 with just 90 seconds left.

"Coach told us to be patient with the ball to keep the lead because (Hogan Prep) couldn't score if they didn't have the ball," Morley said.

The nail in the coffin for the Rams would come with 1:25 left when senior Derrick Drew fouled Wilmes. Upset over the call, Drew made a gesture toward the official, resulting in a technical foul. Wilmes was sent to the line where he made four free throws, igniting the Maryville crowd who knew the trip to Columbia finally belonged to them.

"It definitely hasn't hit home yet going to the Final Four. It's a great accomplishment and a great reward for the way we've been playing," Wilmes said after the game.

For the game, Wilmes had a huge

Please see "Hounds" page 3B

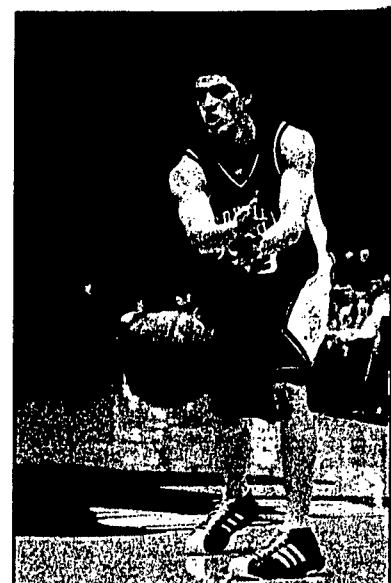


PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/SENIOR REPORTER  
Junior Sydney Brisbane passes the ball during the quarterfinals on Saturday. Maryville faces Mountain Grove today.

## Fans gather to welcome team home

BY BILL KNUST  
SENIOR REPORTER

With as many standing ovations as a State of Union address—well, not that many—the men's basketball team was greeted at a pep rally Wednesday night.

Following a police escort into the city, the South Central Region champs were welcomed back to town by students and fans from Maryville with a resounding ovation.

The heroes of the night were head coach Steve Tappmeyer, junior Jesse Shaw and senior Kelvin Parker. Shaw shook hands with almost everyone in attendance after the rally ended and was still on cloud nine after his shot last night.

"That was the biggest shot I've hit in my life," Shaw said. "I made two free throws to tie the State Championship for us when I was a senior, but last night's shot was bigger than that."

Athletic Director Bob Boerigter emceed the pep rally. He introduced Student Senate President Emily Dix who gave a speech, Bearcat Booster

Please see "Fans" page 2B

## Samuel places 5th, named All-American

By JEROME BOETTCHER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Early on, Alisha Samuel wasn't too sure how she would end up this season.

"I told Coach (Vicki Wooton) I would make it to the nationals and that I would be an All-American," Samuel said.

However, when she suffered an injury earlier on in the season she said she told Coach Wooton that she was "worried."

After Saturday, she didn't have to worry anymore. Samuel finished fifth in the 60-meter dash and became an All-American in only her sophomore year.

"I just want to thank all the people who helped me become an All-American," she said.

Samuel was the only Bearcat that made it to the finals of nationals, let alone became an All-American.

Freshman Kailea Cook finished 13th in the preliminaries of the 60-meter dash. Junior Stephanie Sunken finished 10th in the 800-meter run, one place shy of qualifying for the finals.

"If (Kailea) would have ran what she ran to get in, then she would have been in the finals," Wooton said. "It was a good experience and now that she has been in that situation in a national meet that will only help her experience-wise for the future."

Wooton also said that Sunken was

Please see "Samuel" page 3B



PHOTO BY COLEYOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR  
Byron Jackson and Kelvin Parker wave to the crowd during a pep rally held Wednesday night in Bearcat Arena. Jackson and Parker were both selected to the South Central All-Region team. In addition, Parker was named the Most Outstanding Player in the tournament. The Bearcats are back in action Wednesday when they face Southern Indiana in the Elite Eight in Bakersfield, Calif.

## Bakersfield Bound

### Shaw hits last second shot, gives Northwest regional title

BY BILL KNUST  
SENIOR REPORTER

Northwest do-everything guard Kelvin Parker put Northwest on his back and carried them to the Elite Eight for the second time in three years.

With a 62-59 victory over Drury University, it was an assist, not a basket from Parker that gave the 'Cats the victory. Parker prides himself on being a team player, and it was his assist to junior Jesse Shaw after a drive down the lane that led to Shaw's game-winning three-pointer.

A three-pointer that head coach Steve Tappmeyer called the biggest basket in Bearcat history.

Just like two seasons ago when the 'Cats advanced to the Elite Eight in Evansville, Ind., Parker was named the South Central Regional Tournament MVP. In the regional final Parker scored 27 points and scored 12 straight points for the 'Cats in the second half to help them claw back into the contest.

"What a special player Kelvin Parker is," men's assistant coach Darren Vorderbrugge said to Bearcat Radio Network play-by-play man John Coffey after the win. "Boy, he made some timely plays and he is such a tremendous player. I thought it was very evident he didn't want this to be his last game."



Northwest trailed by six, 30-24, at halftime and shot just 23 percent from the field and 2-for-13 from beyond the three-point line.

"We went to halftime just telling ourselves to keep calm and keep playing defense," Northwest forward Byron Jackson said. "We've been in situations like this, so we didn't panic and everything worked out for us."

The poor shooting carried into the second half as the Panthers built their lead to as big as 11 points on three different occasions.

But, it was their last 11-point lead, on a basket by forward Maxie Stamp that led to Parker exploding for seven straight points to pull the 'Cats within four at 44-40.

Please see "Shaw's" page 2B

	GAME TIME:	NORTHWEST	RADIO:	
	NOON	VS.	97.1 FM	
	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24	SOUTHERN INDIANA	90.5 FM	
	PACIFIC STANDARD TIME		1580 AM	

WEBCAST: WWW.NORTHWESTBEARCATS.COM

## 'Cats lose regional heartbreaker to Washburn; last-second opportunity falls off front of rim

By COLEYOUNG  
SPORTS EDITOR

Judging by senior guard Brooke Hogue's reaction Friday night, this wasn't how she envisioned her college career ending.

After trailing by as many as 10 in the second half, the Bearcats had closed the gap to one point with 5.4 seconds remaining.

As the clock ticked down, it came down to a shot from Hogue, which fell short.

Along with the shot falling short, so did the Bearcats' hopes at a South Central Regional title, with the 65-64 loss.

"I was so confident," Hogue

said. "I knew that if I got an open shot it was going in."

Judging by her shooting performance the rest of the night, one would have thought the same thing.

Each time it seemed that Northwest was out of the game, Hogue seemed to find the right shot to get them back in it.

With 10 minutes left in the game, senior center Sarah Vollertsen picked up her fourth foul, putting the offensive load on whoever would take it.

On the following possession, Hogue hit an NBA-range three-pointer.

"All year long we've had differ-

ent people step up," she said. "With Sarah going out with the fouls, People had to step up and score."

Hogue led the Bearcats with 13 points.

Northwest gained a 10-point lead in the first half, leading 23-13. The Lady Blues went on an 18-4 run, however, to end the half with a 31-27 lead.

Washburn's Brooke Ubelaker scored 19 points in the first half.

In the second half, the Lady Blues extended their lead to 10 before Vollertsen hit a layup to start the Bearcats' run.

Over the next three minutes,

Please see "Cats" page 2B



PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/SENIOR REPORTER  
Senior Brooke Hogue looks over the Washburn defense during the first half of the women's first round loss in the South Central Regional. Hogue led the Bearcats with 13 points in the 65-64 defeat. Drury University went on to win the South Central region.

## KENNESAW

**Mascot-** Owls  
**Location-** Kennesaw, Ga.  
**Leading Scorer-** Terrence Hill, 15.6 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Reggie McKoy, 9.9 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Tommy Thompson, 128 assists  
**Who to watch:** Reggie McKoy is the top rebounder in the Elite Eight. Rebounds are big, especially in big games.



## PFEIFFER

**Mascot-** Falcons  
**Location-** Misenheimer, N.C.  
**Leading Scorer-** Rico Grier, 19.6 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Damien Argett, 7.33 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Rico Grier, 185 assists  
**Who to watch:** Rico Grier scored 29 points in the win over Alderson-Broadbush to win the East Regional Championship.



## MASSACHUSETTS-LOWELL

**Mascot-** River Hawks  
**Location-** Lowell, Mass.  
**Leading Scorer-** Elad Inbar, 19.4 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Stacy Morange, 7.9 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Carl Benn, 102 assists  
**Who to watch:** Elad Inbar is the man who the River Hawks live and die by. Inbar averages 33 minutes a game for the squad. Inbar's high point total for the year is 29 points.



## HUMBOLDT

**Mascot-** Lumberjacks  
**Location-** Arcata, Calif.  
**Leading Scorer-** Austin Nichols, 21.5 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Fred Hooks, 9.1 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Mark White, 224 assists  
**Who to watch:** Austin Nichols averaged 24.3 points per game during the West Region Tournament. Along with that, Mark White dished out 26 assists.



## SOUTHERN INDIANA

**Mascot-** Screaming Eagles  
**Location-** Evansville, Ind.  
**Leading Scorer-** John Oden, 11.6 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Billy Harris, 7 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Avery Queen, 160 assists  
**Who to watch:** Cris Brunson hit the game-winning shot with 4.2 seconds left over Wayne State to send the Screaming Eagles to the Elite Eight.



## NORTHWEST

**Mascot-** Bearcats  
**Location-** Maryville, Mo.  
**Leading Scorer-** Kelvin Parker, 18.1 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Byron Jackson, 8 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Kelvin Parker, 172 assists  
**Who to watch:** Aside from Kelvin Parker, Byron Jackson shouldn't be left alone. Jackson is over-powerful on the boards as long as he stays out of foul trouble.



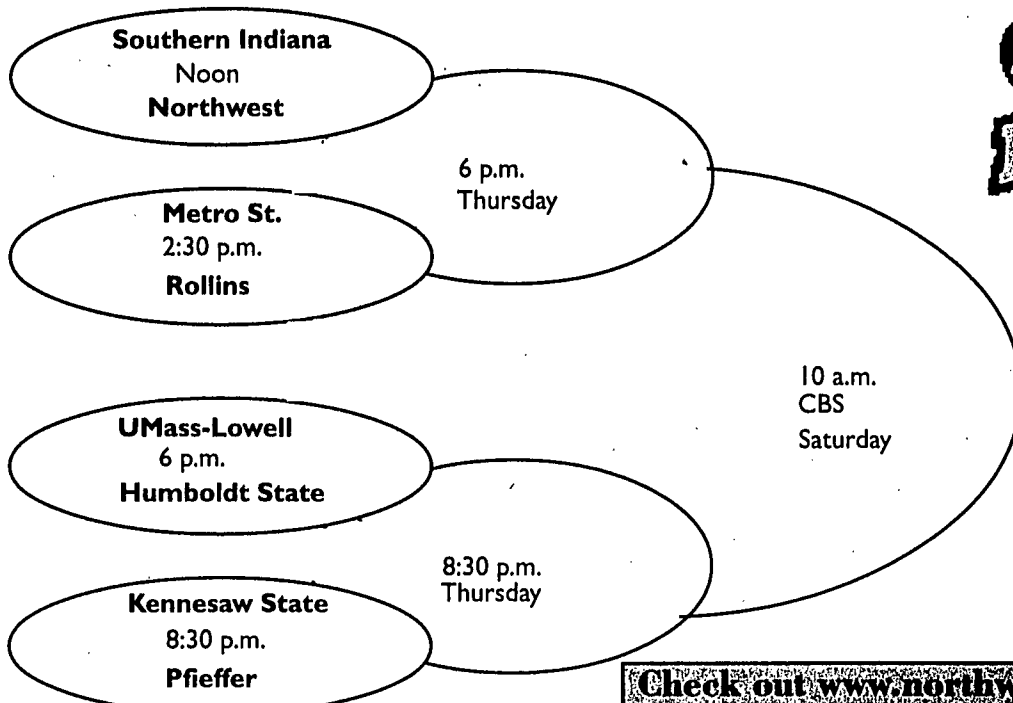
## ROLLINS

**Mascot-** Tars  
**Location-** Winter Park, Fla.  
**Leading Scorer-** Eric Faber, 16.2 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Placide Muhizi, 6.6 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Eric Faber, 203 assists  
**Who to watch:** Eric Faber is Rollins' Kelvin Parker. He was near the top in every category of his conference.



## METRO STATE

**Mascot-** Roadrunners  
**Location-** Denver, Colo.  
**Leading Scorer-** Luke Kendall, 13.1 points  
**Leading Rebounder-** Lester Strong, 7.5 rebounds  
**Assists Leader-** Luke Kendall, 173 assists  
**Who to watch:** Luke Kendall could guide the Roadrunners to the Championship game. If he continues to score and pass like he has been, then the Roadrunners could make a run for the title.



Check out [www.northwestbearcats.com](http://www.northwestbearcats.com) for live webcasts from the Elite Eight.

Continued from page 1B

## Shaw's last-second shot propels Bearcats to victory in South Central title game

After another bucket from the Panthers, Parker added two more baskets that sandwiched another Drury score and cut the lead to 49-45.

"Kelvin is our leader," Jackson said. "He came up big for us, but that's what he's been doing his whole career."

Reserve guard Bilal Clarence then made a three-point shot to cut the lead to two points, 50-48. Clarence finished with eight points, all in the second half.

A tip-in by Jackson off of a missed layup tied the score at 52-52. Jackson would give the 'Cats a 54-52 lead and then Parker scored his last points of the game to give the 'Cats a 56-52 lead.

Drury fought back to take a one-point lead when Stamp converted a

layup and a free throw after he was fouled. Northwest quickly answered back when guard Sky Wilson nailed a three-pointer to give the 'Cats a 59-57 lead.

Drury again tied the score when their center Chris Mortellaro scored over Jackson. Each team had a shot to win the game before Shaw's jumper. Parker missed a layup and Drury missed their chance when a three-pointer missed everything.

Guard Frank Bennett led the Panthers with 19 points. Mortellaro was held to a season-low 10 points by the 'Cats post players, but did finish with a double-double by pulling down 12 rebounds.

Northwest will take on Southern Indiana at 2 p.m. Central Standard Time Wednesday in Bakersfield, Calif.



PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/SENIOR REPORTER  
 Sophomore guard Laura Friederich drives to the basket during the first round of the South Central Regional Tournament. The Bearcats fell to Washburn 75-74 in the opening round.

Continued from page 1B

## 'Cats fall in first round of regional tourney; nine seniors graduate from squad

the Bearcats would go on a 11-1 run to tie the game at 52.

Washburn would extend its lead back to six with 3:41 to go in the game. A series of baskets by senior forward Jenna Wolfe, Hogue and senior guard Jane Chalmers gave Northwest the lead with 1:06 remaining.

Ubelaker would make a free throw to give the Lady Blues the decisive basket and the 65-64 lead with 42 seconds remaining.

The Bearcats lose eight seniors, who, according to head coach Gene Steinmeyer, are irreplaceable.

"These girls are the cornerstones we rebuilt our program on," Steinmeyer said. "They found this program in shambles and have left it in great shape. They may graduate but they won't be forgotten."

Cole Young can be contacted at 562-1224 or [cyoung@missourianonline.com](mailto:cyoung@missourianonline.com)

Continued from page 1B

## Fans come out in full force to welcome home South Central Regional champions

Club President Dan Edmonds, whose wife teaches a multicultural class that Shaw and junior Brandon Rold are in, as well as Northwest President Dean Hubbard.

Edmonds joked that Shaw and Rold were pretty safe academically in that class for the rest of the year.

"When Jesse made the shot my wife screamed over and over, 'Jesse made the shot!'" Edmonds said. "I think it is safe to say your grade may be secure."

After Hubbard broke down the last 20 seconds better than ESPN analyst Dick Vitale, Tappmeyer joked that he was glad he had done that, "because I couldn't watch the last 20 seconds."

With the victory the 'Cats have

advanced to the Elite Eight for the second time in three years. That is just one of the indicators of how far this program has come, Tappmeyer said.

*"When Jesse made the shot my wife screamed over and over, 'Jesse made the shot! Jesse made the shot!'"*

DAN EDMONDS  
 BEARCAT BOOSTER CLUB PRESIDENT

when you go back to regionals for the fifth year in a row and there is not another coach there, I don't think, who was fortunate to have his team there five years in a row and six of the last seven. I think more than me, it speaks to the players, the staff and the University and the things we do. It's one thing to have a good team, but to have a good team and to stay there is that much more special."

# Northwest Ford-Lincoln Mercury's

# Spotlight Player

Junior  
 Wilmes led  
 the Roadrunners to  
 the Class 6 Final  
 Four over the next  
 two days.  
 Wilmes scored 40  
 points in the



Ford





BY COLEYOUNG/SPORTS EDITOR

Cameron Dodd hits a single on Monday afternoon against Minnesota-Crookston. The Bearcats won the game 13-1 and J.R. Servatius pitched a complete game while only allowing five hits. The second game of the doubleheader was called because of snow.

## Snow, rain no problem for Bearcats in victory

By COLEYOUNG  
SPORTS EDITOR

The random weather that graces Missouri is something that frustrates many people.

For the Northwest baseball team, trying to avoid it can be just as frustrating.

On Tuesday and Wednesday the Bearcats were slated to play four games. Thanks to rain and snow, they only played one.

"(The weather) affects our games quite a bit," second baseman Michael French said. "You try to stay focused as you're sitting around waiting to play."

The one game the Bearcats did get in proved to be successful.

Against the Minnesota-Crookston Golden Eagles, the Bearcats used a strong start to win 13-1.

Northwest scored runs in each of their six turns at bat.

After scoring the first 13 runs, pitcher J.R. Servatius gave up a home run to Adam Medlicott for the Golden Eagles' lone run.

Servatius held the Eagles to just five hits. Crookston committed four errors in the loss.

Over the weekend the Bearcats split four games against the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Northwest traveled to Omaha Saturday, where they dropped the first game of the series 11-7.

The Bearcats jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but nine runs from the Mavericks in the third and fourth innings was too much for Northwest.

Kyle Gallagher and David Dugan homered for Northwest.

In the second game the 'Cats offense exploded.

After leading 11-9 going in to the seventh inning, the Bearcats scored eight runs.

Alex Budden picked up the win for

Northwest, while Gallagher homered.

"We have done pretty well at times," French said. "We have struggled here and there but yesterday we started to find our niche a little bit."

On Sunday the teams traveled to Northwest for the second-half of the series.

The results were much the same as the first day. In the first game Northwest fell to UNO 11-7.

Drew Mettelle homered for the 'Cats while Adam Williamson picked up the loss.

The Bearcats were able to tie the series at 2-2 when they picked up an 8-3 win in the final game of the series.

They jumped out to an 8-0 lead before the Mavericks were able to garner three runs over the last two innings.

French and Brad Schwarz homered for the Bearcats while Dugan picked up the win, improving his record to 3-0.

The 14-6 'Cats are back in action Saturday at Missouri Western.

## Softball picks up double win in Joplin

By JEROME BOETTCHER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Bearcats had a 5-0 lead going into the fourth inning of the game against Augustana and it looked like they would get their third win of the Missouri Southern Classic.

Then Mother Nature decided to stop by.

The game was called because of rain and the women didn't receive their win because the game hadn't gone at least five innings.

"We were finally on a roll, I saw consistency in a game and a half," head coach Susan Anderson said. "If we could have just finished it, then that would have been two games and that would have been nice. But I think that even without that game counting, I think we know it in the back of our heads that 'Hey, we've got this.' It's just a matter of us keeping that momentum going into Texas."

Northwest finished the tournament with two wins and three losses. They lost to the University

of Missouri-St. Louis 1-0 on Friday to kick off the tournament. They then lost their next game 12-1 to Oklahoma City and finished out the day with a victory over Missouri Southern 4-3. On Saturday they lost to Washburn 1-0 but beat Augustana 8-5.

Anderson said that in the game against Missouri-St. Louis, the team just couldn't get anything going. However, she wasn't disappointed with the game against Washburn.

"I was much more pleased with that game just because the defense, the pitching, everything was really really good," Anderson said. "It was a fun game to watch, it was a quick game. It's just comes down to executing and getting a base hit here or there."

The team's record is now 6-10 for the season.

"It's just a matter of us, once again, getting that consistency and putting it all together and keeping it that way," Anderson said. "And not taking one step forward and two steps back, one step forward

two steps back. I want us to get on that winning track and keep going."

The team traveled to Omaha earlier in the week to play the University of Nebraska-Omaha. They lost both games of the doubleheader, 4-3 and 10-4.

They now head to Texas for 10 games. They will start in Austin, Texas on Friday and will face St. Edward's University. Their last game in Texas is March 24 against Texas Women's University in Dallas.

"Everybody's looking forward to Texas," Anderson said. "It's going to be a great trip. We're playing some nationally ranked teams down there; we're playing good competition. Hopefully the sun will be shining down there and they won't have snow on the ground like we do right now. We are just all looking forward to getting away from Maryville for a little bit, coming together as a team, enjoying spring break, getting to play games and getting together better as a team."

CONTINUED from 1B

## Samuel takes fifth at nationals; outdoor begins Thursday

"She went out and ran the first part of her race like she needed to run and it just wasn't there that day."

The men went through the same thing.

Gabriel Helms, who was in his final season of indoor track, withdrew from the race because of a hamstring injury.

Freshman Eric Isley, like Sunken, finished 10th in the preliminaries of the 800-meter run. Senior Dan McKim also fell short of qualifying for the finals after finishing 10th in the weight throw.

"They all were just a little bit on the short end," Alsop said. "If you want to look at the positive, though, they were still the 10th best in the nation."

Alsop said he had hopes that se-

nior Kyle Krauss and junior Jamaica Rector would have had a better season. However, he knows how tough the competition is.

"We know what it takes for kids to qualify," Alsop said.

Wooton also said that she hoped senior long jumper Gara Lacy and thrower Mary Wirt, who has made it to nationals before, would have done better. But she is hopeful for next year's indoor track season.

"I anticipate that those young ladies (Cook, Samuel, Sunken

and Wirt) will continue to improve through outdoor and they'll get back there for indoor next year."

The teams now must switch gears and get ready to run outdoor track. Both teams run Thursday at Emporia State in the first meet of the season.

"The problem with going into outdoor is we go home with spring break," Wooton said. "We'll send workouts home and hopefully they will come home in as good of shape as when they left."

Alsop also has high hopes for the season.

"Everyone is back, except for Kyle Krauss," he said. "We have a very good group here, a group that could challenge the MIAA."



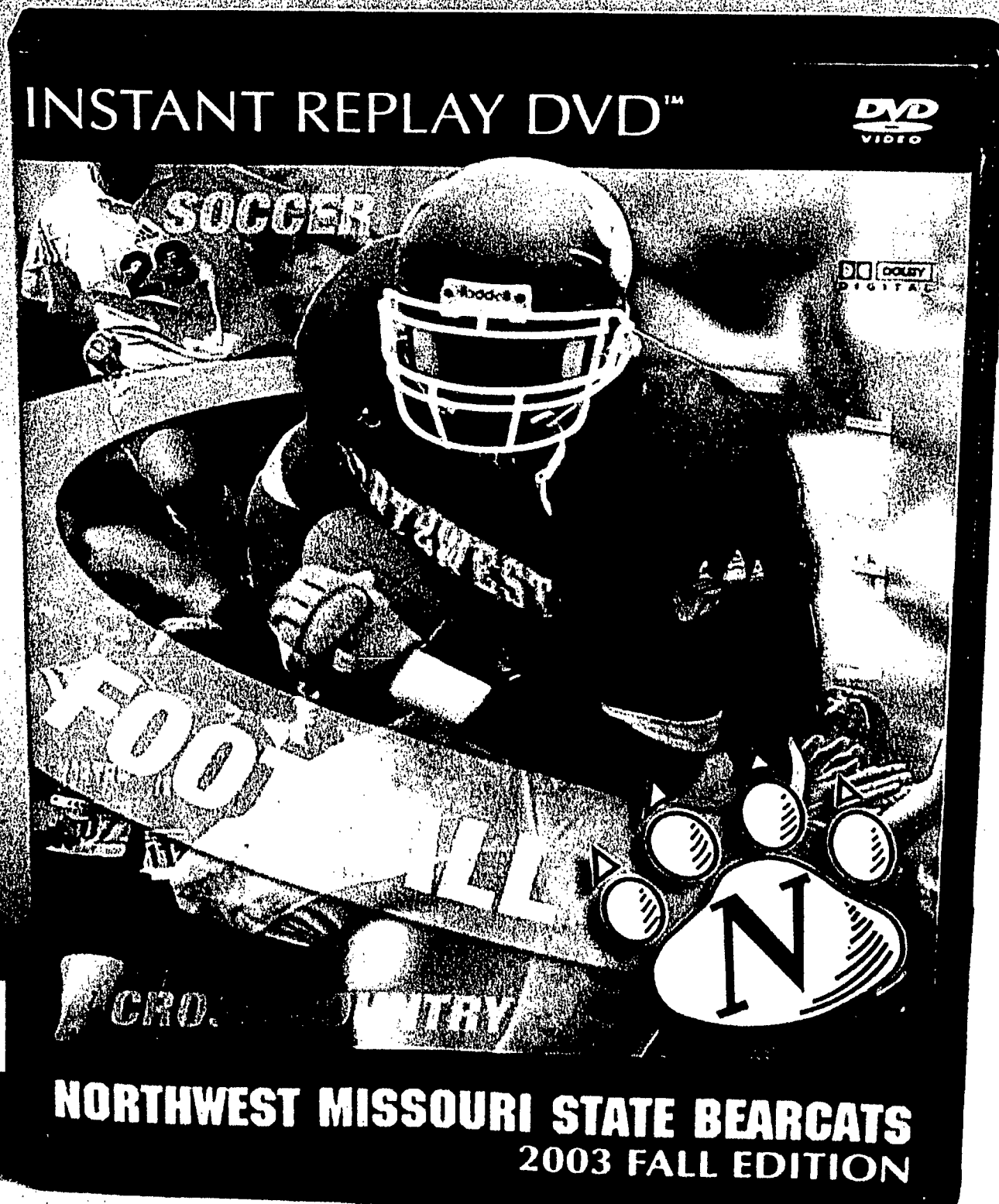
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cross country

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**NORTHWEST**  
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



CONTINUED from 1B

## 'Hounds qualify for state championships

day by pouring in 25 points to lead the 'Hounds, while Morley chipped in with nine points, all on three-pointers.

"It's real exciting because no one really thought we could get to the Final Four with our losses. We played our game, a good defensive game and hit the shots when we needed to," Morley said.

With the win, Maryville heads to class 3 Final Four in Columbia, where they play the Mountain Grove Panthers (25-3) today at 2 p.m. at the Hearnes Center.

If they lose, the 'Hounds will face the loser of the other semifinal between the Centralia Panthers (27-2) and Charleston Blue Jays (26-3) at 10:50 a.m. Friday morning.

A win would send them to the championship where they would play the winner between Centralia and Charleston at 2 p.m.

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**FRIDAY 2 P.M.**  
**HEARNES CENTER**  
**COLUMBIA, MO.**



Junior Josh Wilmes looks to pass the ball after grabbing a rebound against Hogan Prep on Saturday. Wilmes leads the 'Hounds in rebounds.

# Inside the Final Four: the keys to victory

By JEROME BOETTCHER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Four teams will duke it out this weekend and in the end only one team will be able to call themselves state champions.

Centralia, Charleston and Mountain Grove high schools, along with Maryville, are all fighting for a Class 3 State Championship.

Maryville's first opponent will be the Mountain Grove Panthers (25-3). The Panthers have won 10 straight games.

The key to their offense is Brett Collins. The sophomore phenomenon averages 21.7 points a game. Along with him, 6'4" junior Jared Emery scores 12.7 points per game and averages 10.4 rebounds a game.

The 'Hounds will have to continue to play good defense if they want to win it all. The Panthers are a team that averages 70 points a game. The 'Hounds are the only team out of the four finalists that didn't at least average 70 points per game this season. They only averaged 60.5 points per game. In their last five games, they have only given up 26.2 points per game. Whereas in their last three games they only scored an average of 39 points per game.

As Josh Wilmes of Maryville said after the team's quarterfinal win against Lafayette County, "defense wins championships."

In the other matchup, the Charleston Blue Jays (26-3) look to end the Centralia Panthers' (27-2) 18-game winning streak.

The Blue Jays have three players who average double-figures. Junior Ashton Farmer brings his 6'7" height along with an average of 15.4 points per game to the court. He also averages six rebounds per game. Senior guard Marcus Biles is also tough to stop with an average of 15.9 points per game. Senior Josh Strayhorn scores in double-digits with an average of 13.1 points per game. The Blue Jays are no strangers to scoring a lot of points. They have scored 90 points or more in three games. However, they have also given up a fair share of points. They surrendered 100 points to Class 5 State Champions Poplar Bluff earlier in the season.

Centralia is the favorite to win it all this year. They are fresh off a win over defending state champion Cardinal Ritter. They also are an all-senior team.

The Panthers also have three players with averages in double figures. Guard Adam Hinspeter, 6'5", averages 16.5 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. Grant Rosenfelder, also 6'5", comes off the bench and averages 10.1 points per game. Chad Thall, 6'5", averages 11.1 points per game and 5.6 rebounds.

Every team has played in at least one close game this postseason. In those close games, the biggest margin was seven points. Each team has also blown away opponents.

The championship is up for grabs and no team should be overlooked. Defense is Maryville's key to winning it all.

### Mountain Grove Panthers

Member of the South Central Association



**Record** 25-3  
**Enrollment** 498  
**Key Wins**  
Versailles 55-53  
Lebanon 69-67  
Willow Springs 64-53

**Leading Scorer**  
Brett Collins 21.7 points

**School Colors**  
Maroon and Gray

**Leading Rebounder**  
Jared Emery 10.4 rebounds

**Tallest Player**  
Emery 6'4"

**Assist Leader**  
Luke Peterson 100 assists

**Shortest Player**  
Will Wright 5'8"

### Maryville Spoofhounds

Member of the Midland Empire Conference



**Record** 24-6  
**Enrollment** 526  
**Key Wins**  
Lafayette County 38-31  
LeBlond 49-40  
Hogan Prep 41-28

**Leading Scorer**  
Josh Wilmes 15.2 points

**School Colors**  
Green and Gold

**Leading Rebounder**  
Wilmes 7.1 rebounds

**Tallest Player**  
Jacob Hefflin 6'5"

**Assist Leader**  
Syd Brisbane 86 assists

**Shortest Player**  
Erick Auxier 5'8"

### Centralia Panthers

Member of the Clarence Canon Conference



**Record** 27-2  
**Enrollment** 400  
**Key Wins**  
Cardinal Ritter 56-50  
Kirkville 63-59  
Glendale 58-51

**Leading Scorer**  
Adam Hinspeter 16.5 points

**School Colors**  
Black and White

**Leading Rebounder**  
Hinspeter 6.6 rebounds

**Tallest Player**  
Hinspeter 6'5"

**Assist Leader**  
Justin Armontrout 118 assists

**Shortest Player**  
Mike Rodgers 5'10"

### Charleston Cardinals

Member of Southeast Missouri Conference



**Record** 26-3  
**Enrollment** 394  
**Key Wins**  
Scott City 63-58  
Caruthersville 50-49  
Caruthersville 66-65

**Leading Scorer**  
Marcus Biles 15.9 points

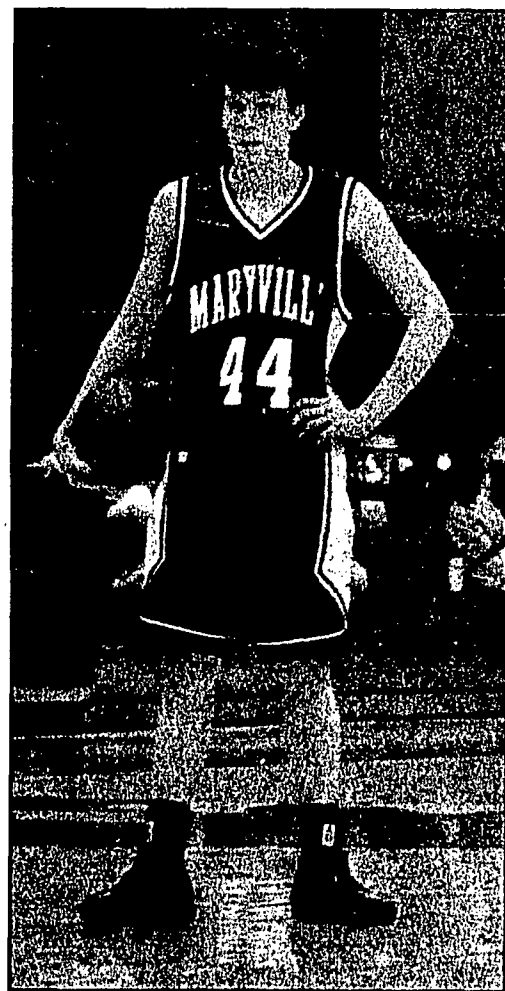
**School Colors**  
Blue and White

**Leading Rebounder**  
Ashton Farmer 6.0

**Tallest Player**  
Farmer 6'7"

**Assist Leader**  
Biles 138 assists

**Shortest Player**  
Biles 5'7"



### Hold for one

Senior Nate Morley holds the ball to run down the clock during the quarterfinals. Morley and the 'Hounds' slow-paced offense ranks them at the bottom of the teams in the Final Four. Maryville averages 60.5 points per game while the next lowest is 70.2 points per game by Mountain Grove.

PHOTO BY BILL KNUST/  
SENIOR REPORTER

### MARYVILLE STATISTICS

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	G	FG	FGA	Pct.	3pt.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Reb.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.	Ast.
10	Jasinski	G	Jr.	6-1	14	5	9	.556	0	2	3	.667	7	0.5	12	0.9	4
12	Wilmes	F	Jr.	6-4	27	160	351	.456	23	68	96	.708	193	7.1	411	15.2	46
20	Auxier	G	Sr.	5-8	25	11	45	.244	7	9	14	.643	20	0.8	38	1.5	16
22	Blair	G	Jr.	5-11	14	6	13	.462	2	3	3	1.00	2	0.1	17	1.2	2
	Brisbane	G	Jr.	5-11	27	118	262	.450	30	55	72	.764	86	3.2	321	11.9	86
32	Burnsides	G	Jr.	5-11	27	34	102	.333	2	23	42	.548	53	2.0	93	3.4	50
33	McClellan	F	Sr.	6-2	27	44	92	.478	0	15	31	.484	80	3.0	103	3.8	6
34	Raffell	C	Jr.	6-1	10	7	14	.500	0	2	4	.500	18	1.8	16	1.6	6
40	Lade	F	Sr.	6-1	25	20	51	.392	10	16	23	.696	63	2.5	66	2.6	25
42	Hefflin	C	Sr.	6-5	26	74	149	.497	0	48	78	.615	116	4.5	196	7.5	15
44	Morley	G	Sr.	6-3	22	24	142	.451	34	19	30	.633	59	7.7	181	8.2	50
52	Hendrix	C	Sr.	6-4	24	28	58	.483	23	11	19	.579	44	1.8	67	2.7	11

### WHO, WHEN AND WHERE

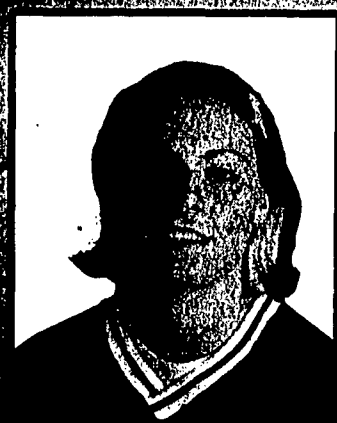
Marville vs. Mountain Grove 2 p.m., Today	Semifinal Losers 10:50 a.m., Friday
Charleston vs. Centralia 12:25 p.m., Today	Semifinal Winners 2 p.m., Friday

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# PLAYER OF THE WEEK

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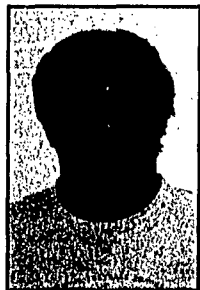


## ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK

*What team is your pick to win the NCAA Basketball Tournament?*



"KU is going all the way!"  
SARAH BARMANN  
ENGLISH



"I'm going with Kentucky. Only because Missouri's not in it."  
KENNETH DAVIS  
ACCOUNTING



"Duke, because Reddick is awesome."  
DESTRI GIBBS  
MANAGEMENT/  
MARKETING



"North Carolina Tarheels are who I want to win. They have the best starting five in the nation."  
KEINON PERKINS  
PRE-LAW



"Stanford, because they're on a roll."  
DAVID MCGONIGLE  
ART

## 'Hounds look to defend MEC crown, get over challenges

By JEREMY SCHWENK  
MISSOURIAN REPORTER



Hounds Soccer

only lost experience but chemistry as well.

"Those girls had been playing together for a long time and knew a lot about each other

on and off the field," Oludaja said. Although the task of rebuilding is never a fond word to be accepted by coaches, Oludaja sees it as a task.

"Rebuilding won't be easy," said Oludaja. "But we also have a lot of talent on this year's team and won't let it go to waste."

With that in mind, the first task of the 'Hounds season will begin March 26 in Excelsior Springs against Warrensburg.

## 'Hounds offense reason enough for shot clock

Whoever came up with the term March Madness should have trademarked it. When the third month of the year rolls around it seems to be the "in" thing to say. That person could have been a millionaire right now. Too bad.

Speaking of March Madness, it is in full-swing for the city of Maryville. The Spoofhounds are in action today in Columbia and next week the Bearcats head to Bakersfield, Calif., for the Elite Eight.

But the Spoofhounds are not going to get off easy from this writer. Their tactics this season are a perfect example of why high school basketball should institute a shot clock.

I've seen more scoring at a high school prom.

The bad part is, they have a really good team. Junior Josh Wilmes has skills and will be one of the best players in the Midland Empire Conference next

season. Heck, he already is one of the best players in the conference.

His performance Saturday against Hogan Prep High School was just awesome to watch. He had 25 points and hit almost every shot he took.

Imagine how many more points he could score if the 'Hounds didn't hold the ball for a minute at a time, every time they possessed the ball.

All year long the team has prided itself on the tough defense they play. They should be proud of it because they hawk the ball like a championship team, but if they win the state title, that won't be recognized.

Instead, people are going to

### Ranting and Raving

BILL KNUST  
SENIOR REPORTER



comment about their stalling tactics, when they should be talking about their hard-nosed defense and Wilmes.

If MSHSAA is smart, they will move to a 35-second shot clock in the next two or three years and help increase scoring. It will also help prepare players for the college game, which has a 35-second shot clock.

\*\*\*

I've been covering the men's basketball team in one form or another since my freshman year. I would have to say that this may not be the most talented team I have witnessed in the four years I have been here, but it may be the most determined and toughest.

It all starts at the point, and senior Kelvin Parker is doing everything he can to make sure he is never forgotten once he leaves.

His 27-point performance Tuesday, including a spurt of 12 consecutive points, says everything you need to know about the guy. It was his assist to junior Jesse Shaw, though, that was his biggest act of the night.

\*\*\*

If you happen to get a chance, check out the 'Cats baseball team. They are nationally ranked and have a good squad.

Conference season begins this week, so every game from here on out is that much more important. It is amazing how far head coach Darin Loe has brought this team. In 2001 they finished 20-31, and last year they were two innings away from playing the regional finals against eventual national champion Central Missouri State University.

## Gator gives his opinion on tourney

By BRIAN SHAFFER  
INDEPENDENT FLORIDA ALLIGATOR (U. FLORIDA)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — So let me get this right. He did what? Matt Walsh played a game in which, at one point, he had shredded all of the skin off of the bottom of his foot. And he says he'll be ready on Thursday? In a word, ballsy.

I don't know if Walsh's foot will have time to heal between now and then, but I don't think he really cares. I fully expect to see Walsh out there, foot or no foot. The Big Dance is just too important.

After reflecting upon Florida's run to the championship game of the Southeastern Conference Tournament, I am no more convinced that this team is capable of making a similar run when the NCAA

Tournament commences than I was months ago.

What the Gators showed in the SEC Tournament was what they have shown all year: an inconsistent team.

One minute, I'm confusing Anthony Roberson with Stephon Marbury and the next minute his game resembles a classic John Starks brick barrage. What happened? And as for Walsh, a gritty performance no doubt, but if he shoots like he did in the Gators' SEC Tournament opener when the first round of the NCAA Tournament rolls around, he and the rest of the team will be making it a quick trip to Raleigh, N.C.

Rounding out the big three is the ever-confident David Lee. Let's hear from David to get his thoughts on his team's chances in the Tournament.

"I think we can be a dangerous team,"

he said. "I don't think there's a team we can't match up with in the country."

Huh? Oh wait, let me finish for him ... except for Kentucky.

For the record, I think the Gators will reach the Sweet Sixteen, but ultimately fall when the matchup is not favorable. They seem to be able to run and gun with the best teams in the country.

However, tournament success is predicated on (gulp) rebounding and defense, two facets of the game that have been glaringly absent from this year's Gators squad.

One night the shots won't be falling and some big man will have his way down low, but after a season of such ups and downs for Gator Nation, here's hoping it's not until New Jersey.

## Wisconsin draws Spiders in first round of contest

By JOE ZIEMER  
BADGER HERALD (U. WISCONSIN)

(U-WIRE) INDIANAPOLIS—The NCAA Tournament Selection Committee did not pave the easiest of roads for the Wisconsin Badgers (24-6), but the journey will begin close to home. Tabled the No. 6 seed in the East Rutherford Regional, the Badgers will face the Richmond Spiders in the first round Friday, just down the road in Milwaukee.

"It's great for us; we're close to home," guard Devin Harris said. "We're happy we're going anywhere in the end to play in the NCAA Tournament. I think we'll get great fan [support], so it's a good thing for us."

Despite a Big Ten Tournament championship and a second-place regular season finish, UW drew just a six seed from the committee. Illinois, which Wisconsin beat to claim the tournament championship, earned a No. 5 seed in the Atlanta Region. Though they may have been slightly disappointed, the Badgers are looking forward to playing in front of their fans in Milwaukee.

"I expected a little higher, us finishing second in the season and then winning the Big Ten Tournament, then Illinois comes out and gets a fifth seed," guard Boo Wade said. "I think it's going to work out to our advantage, being a sixth seed and playing right at home."

Ranked No. 10 in both polls,

Wisconsin finds itself seeded behind No. 11 Texas, No. 12 Cincinnati, No. 13 Illinois, No. 14 Kansas, No. 15 Georgia Tech, No. 16 Wake Forest, No. 17 North Carolina State, No. 19 Providence, No. 21 Maryland, No. 24 Syracuse and unranked Florida.

"In this tournament, every team is so even, so it's hard to determine between all the top teams," forward Mike Wilkinson said. "We're happy to be going to Milwaukee and playing in the Bradley Center where we've been before once or twice. Having the fans there is going to be great. We're happy to be there."

The Badgers will have their work cut out for them in a region that includes St. Joseph's, Oklahoma State and Pittsburgh.

"We really have no control," guard Clayton Hanson said of the seeding. "We do what we can on the court and luckily we get to play close to home. That's a plus for us. We'll play wherever they put us, whoever they put us against. We'll play and we'll be ready for it."

Also drawing No. 6 seeds were Boston College (23-9), North Carolina (18-10) and Vanderbilt (21-9).

"I'm happy for the team, the fact that they're in the tournament," Wisconsin head coach Bo Ryan said. "They took care of business in the regular season and now in the conference championship game, conference tournament. I look at teams as a coach and I can't see the difference

between three through eight to be honest with you. I wouldn't want to be in that room. I wouldn't want to make those decisions."

For Milwaukee natives Harris, Wade and Freddie Owens, the game with Richmond will provide the opportunity to play in front of family and friends.

"I'm very excited. I'm going home, right in Milwaukee," Wade said. "My family is going to be able to get out and see me play, so I think it is going to be a great thing for us."

The Richmond Spiders finished the 2003-04 season with a 20-12 mark, including wins over Xavier and Kansas. Out of the Atlantic-10 Conference, the Spiders earned an at-large bid. The two schools have not previously met.

"I don't know anything about them, but our staff will definitely have us prepared," Hanson said. "We'll know a lot more than we'll want to probably."

"I've seen very little myself," center Dave Mader said of Richmond. "That's the coaches' job. I'm going to leave that up to them."

Should it defeat Richmond, Wisconsin would have a Sunday date with the winner of Friday's game between Pittsburgh and Central, Florida.

"We were happy just to be in the tournament," Mader said. "It was a great feeling and we're looking forward to playing Richmond. It's going to be a good game."

FAN PLAN	TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Northwest men's basketball							Southern Indiana 12 p.m.
Northwest baseball			Missouri Western 1 p.m.		Emporia State 1 p.m.		
Northwest softball		St. Edwards University 1 p.m.	St. Mary's University TBA	Incarnate Word University 2 p.m.		Texas A&M Kingsville 3 p.m.	Texas Women's University TBA
Northwest men's tennis			UMKC 1 p.m.		SIU-Edwardsville 2:30 p.m.	Austin Peay 2 p.m.	Emporia State 11 a.m.
Northwest women's tennis				Ft. Hays University 8 a.m.	Southeast Missouri 2:30 p.m.	Austin Peay 2 p.m.	Emporia State 11 a.m.
Maryville boys' basketball	State Semifinals 2 p.m.	State Finals TBA					

■ GAME TO WATCH: The Spoofhounds will compete in the Class 3A Basketball Championships for the first time since 1995. They will face Mountain Grove first, if they win they will play the winner of the Centralia/Charleston semifinal for the state title on Friday at 2 p.m. ■ Home games

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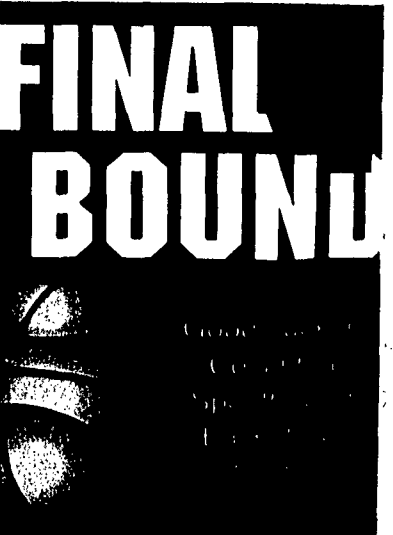
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## Your Man heads to the windy city

The birds are chirping and the weather is finally (sort of) warming up...what great conditions for strolling! Spring break is right around the corner and I'm sure we all just can't wait for it to get here. Some of us have plans to hit the beach somewhere and lay in the sand as we tan our way to cancer and wrinkles. Others are looking forward to partying each night and drinking away brain cells. Or we might even be leaving the country altogether, trekking around the rainforests of Costa Rica or perhaps building homes with Habitat for Humanity. And some not-so-lucky students are just going home to parents and siblings, which may or may not be the most relaxing route to take, depending on where and with whom you live.

As for me, I have plans to stroll around Chicago with some good friends that I've made since starting college. They call Chicago the Windy City—as if Maryville hasn't been windy enough for me these past couple of weeks. If I were any lighter, I'd get carried away like Dorothy and Toto. Just follow the yellow brick road, right? Nevertheless, it is one place I have never been to and yet have always had a strong desire to visit, with all its museums, the Sears Tower, and of course, Wrigley Field. Unfor-



### THE STROLLER

unately, I don't think that the Cubs will be playing any home games while I'm there. But at least the nightlife will be a heck of a lot better than it is around here.

It's an interesting phenomenon for a college student to go from being homesick and wanting to run home every weekend to planning road trips every time he or she can't be away at school. We all change over time, and these four (or five) years account for some of the biggest changes in our lifetimes. We make new friends, pick up new influences, and develop new identities for ourselves. We still

have connections to home, but mommy and daddy can't keep an eye on our every move anymore. And sometimes it causes a clash in family values. Which is why we try to stay away.

Sigh...

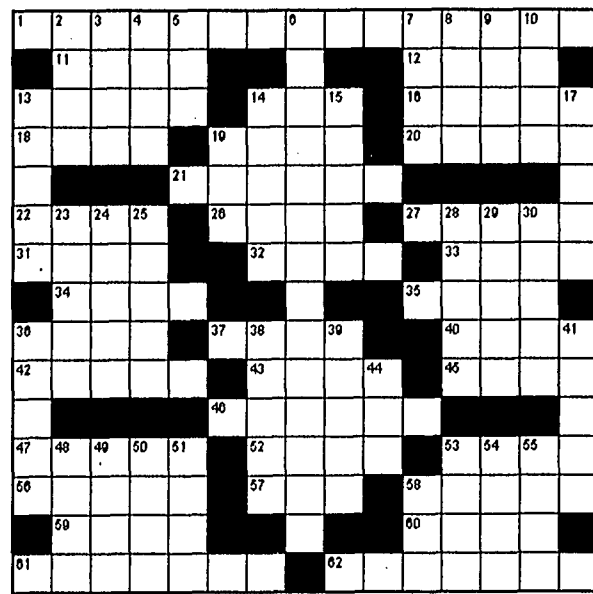
Still, spring break is always a good week to relax. We can forget all about papers, tests, projects, and droning lectures for a short while and just cut loose. It's a time to catch up on sleep and have an all around good time. And guess what? When we get back, we've only got five more weeks and the trimester will be over! As much as I love Northwest and Maryville, it will be nice to spend some quality time in *real* cities and going on vacations outside of the Show-Me State.

Of course, this means the coming of the end-of-the-semester grind that we face every four months. So spring break really comes at an ideal time: a chance to recuperate before that final sprint to the end.

And crossing that finish line is oh, so sweet.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of *The Northwest Missourian*.

### WEEKLY CROSSWORD



#### Across

1. Caring for farm animals
11. Single entity
12. Island in central Hawaii
13. Become confused
14. Rotational speed
16. Units of volume
18. Greek island in the Aegean
19. Persian fairy
20. Cease being awake
21. Waterproof overshoe
22. Shortform

26. Remaining
27. Biblical king
31. Mountains
32. Trial
33. Thick cord
34. Female name
35. Person reared in a large city
36. Russian river
37. House
40. Confined
42. Feeds
43. Shortform state
45. Nonsense
46. Having mechanical body parts
47. Behaved

52. Condescending person
53. Burn slightly
56. Disgrace
57. Cut and dried grass
58. Raucous sound
59. Heroic
60. Injury
61. Expressive of love
62. Most informed about the latest trends

#### Down

2. Unclothed
3. Prefix representing India

4. Thousandths of an inch
5. Consumed
6. Amateurish
7. Current units
8. Metal fastener
9. Sand hill
10. Religious practice
13. Pack leader
14. Rented out again
15. Thin fogs
17. Digging tool
19. Comrade
23. More ominous
24. Thorn
25. Short literary composition
28. Burst forth
29. Cowboy display
30. Unfolds
36. Fuel
38. Mennonite
39. Harass
41. At that place
44. Pen point
48. Chemical
49. Bark of the paper mulberry
50. Send forth
51. Art ----?
53. Applaud
54. Run quickly
55. Weapons
58. Measure of engine power

### on the edge

**Facts about St. Patrick's Day:**  
 ■ St. Patrick's Day was celebrated for the first time in America on March 17, 1737, when the Charitable Irish Society, a Protestant group founded that same year, organized a non-religious celebration honoring St. Paddy. It originated in Ireland as a religious holiday honoring the arrival of St. Patrick in 432 A.D. and his death on March 17, 464 A.D.

■ Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley commemorated St. Patrick's Day in 1965 by pouring 100 pounds of emerald green dye into the Chicago River.

■ Excavation for New York's Empire State Building began on January 22, 1930. Construction was postponed upon former governor Al Smith's request. A charismatic Irish-American, Smith asked that construction begin on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1930, to honor the heritage of the Irish week.

See answers below

## Upcoming Concerts

Maryville  
 Kansas City  
 Des Moines  
 Omaha

- Mar. 17 **Grasshopper Takeover**  
The Pub
- Mar. 18 **Blake Shelton**  
Beaumont Club
- Mar. 24 **John Reuben**  
The Hurricane
- Mar. 20 **The Malarkies**  
Vaudeville Mews
- Mar. 22 **All Night Radio**  
Vaudeville Mews
- Mar. 17 **Britney Spears**  
Qwest Center
- Mar. 24 **Kelly Clarkson/Clay Aiken**  
Qwest Center

- Mar. 31 **Michael Burks**  
Ameristar Hotel, Casino
- April 1 **Mark Wills**  
Beaumont Club
- Mar. 26 **W.C. Clark**  
The Grand
- Mar. 27 **Wolfstone**  
Celtic Concert Series
- Mar. 24 **Murphy's Law**  
Ranch Bowl
- Mar. 27 **Bruce Katz Band**  
Murphy's Lounge

For more information on upcoming events check out [www.pollstar.com](http://www.pollstar.com)



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- Take contact information: names, numbers, insurance information, Doctor name and number.
- Take cell phone and charger.
- Take a first aid kit.
- Make sure someone always knows where you are.
- Wear sunblock and drink lots of water.
- Don't drive if you're tired.

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## Missourian Classifieds

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**For Rent:** 1-6 Bedroom Home/Apartments. Available Now-August. Most have stove/refridgerator/washers/dryers. New units include dishwashers and garbage disposal. 582-8527

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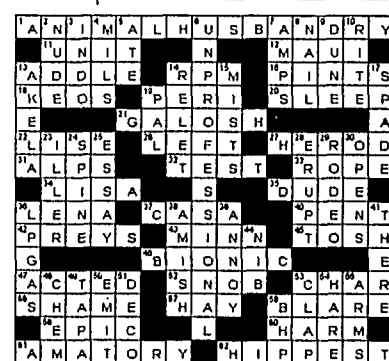
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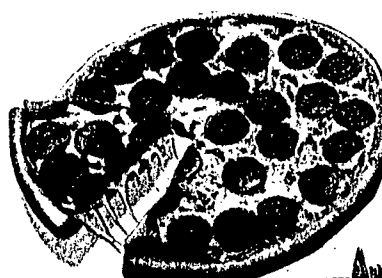
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